

Civil rights, labor, LGBTQ groups unite

STOP stop-&-frisk

By Caleb T. Maupin
New York

A mass demonstration took place here against the racist and anti-LGBTQ “stop-and-frisk” policy and the anti-immigrant “Secure Communities” legislation on June 17, Father’s Day. A crowd of nearly 20,000 assembled and marched in Harlem on the Sunday afternoon. The action was called by the NAACP.

NAACP President Benjamin Jealous told MSNBC, “In most cities, when you ask who gets beaten up by the cops, the answer comes back: black people, people of color, and the gay community.” (Associated Press, June 18)

The organizers requested that the marchers be silent as they denounced the policies of the New York Police Department. Countless organizations came to the demonstration, forming a reverent funeral procession of sorts that stretched for blocks and condemned the police brutality that has led to the deaths of many innocent Black and Latino/a people.

United Healthcare Workers East, 1199 SEIU, joined with American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees District Council 37 and numerous other unions, who had made official union signs and placards denouncing the NYPD. A group of legal aid lawyers, who are United Auto Workers members, marched in that contingent. Beauty schools, churches and mosques mobilized to attend the march, as well as more explicitly political organizations.

In the legacy of the Stonewall rebellion against police brutality, participating LGBTQ organizations included FIERCE, an LGBTQ youth of color organization, and the Audre Lorde Project. At least 28 LGBTQ organization endorsed the call for the June 17 march.

The United National Antiwar Committee led a contingent along with the local Muslim community. The Muslim community in New York City has been greatly victimized by the NYPD’s various entrapment schemes, including the framing of innocent Muslims on terrorism charges.



June 17 protest against stop-and-frisk, New York.

WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

These schemes play off and strengthen anti-Islamic bigotry.

Signs at the march condemned stop-and-frisk from different angles. Some spoke of the policy as being unconstitutional. Others linked the racist policy to capitalism and threats of war against Syria and Iran. Other placards, refusing to let racist killings be forgotten, bore the faces and names of victims of police terror like Ramarley Graham and Sean Bell.

Workers World Party brought a large banner reading “Unite to Fight Racism.” Workers World placards reading “Prisons are concentration camps for the poor; tear down the walls!” were distributed throughout the crowd. Hundreds of copies of Workers World newspaper were circulated as well.

As the silent march ended and people began to disperse, chants erupted spontaneously. “The cops are violent! We will not be silent!” echoed loudly. Some demonstrators even used bullhorns, ending this march of silent reverence with a militant, angry spirit of unvanquished resistance. □

STOP POLICE BRUTALITY, REPRESSION

in Baltimore, Milwaukee 6

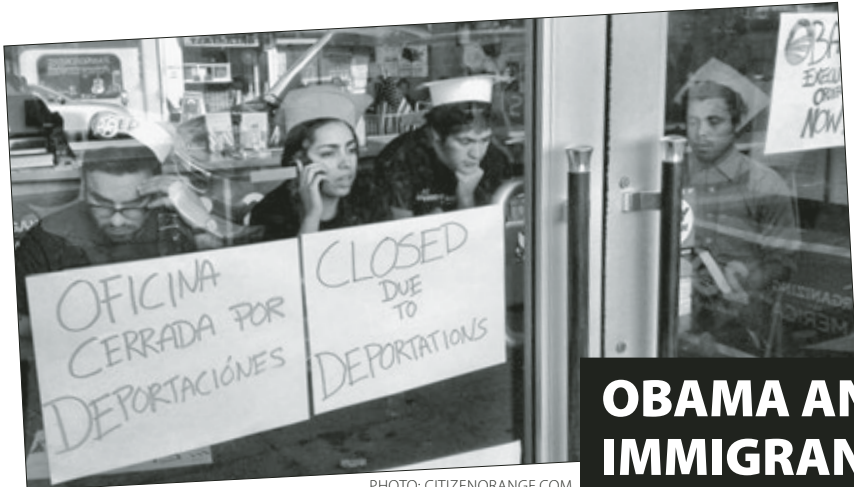


PHOTO: CITIZENORANGE.COM

Undocumented youth occupy Obama’s campaign headquarters in Oakland, Calif., June 14.

OBAMA AND
IMMIGRANT
RIGHTS 4



▶ Trans Day of Action ▶ CeCe McDonald ▶ Central NY Pride

STONEWALL
MEANS FIGHT
BACK! 3

SUBSCRIBE TO WORKERS WORLD NEWSPAPER

☐ 4 weeks trial \$4

☐ 1 year subscription \$30

☐ Sign me up for the WWP Supporter Program.

For more information: workers.org/supporters/

212.627.2994 www.workers.org

Name _____

Address _____ City / State / Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Workers World Newspaper 55 W. 17th St. #5C, NY, NY 10011

35 YEARS
Celebrate The
Workers World
Supporter
Program:
JOIN UP!
See page 9

CUBA’S TEOFILO STEVENSON, a true champion

By Larry Hales

Society, not just U.S. but global society, or more correctly, bourgeois culture celebrates “success.” Celebrities or cultural icons are more often actors or athletes, highly paid darlings of mainstream media who are held up for workers and oppressed people to aspire to, but only a minute number of people will ever realistically reach that goal. It is not that being an entertainer or athlete places the person outside the more degenerate ideals of society like racism, sexism or homophobia. History is rife with examples of adored entertainers or athletes falling from grace for daring to speak against backward ways of thinking. There are even recent examples. Craig Hodges, a three-time National Basketball Association three-point shootout winner, two-time NBA champion with the Chicago Bulls, and a defensive specialist played his last NBA game in 1992 after being waived by the Bulls in the off-season. No other team would sign him.

It is presumed the reasons are because Hodges questioned then-president George Bush regarding his treatment of people of color and Hodges’ membership in the Nation of Islam.

Entertainers and athletes in bourgeois society are expected to do their jobs, as workers and the oppressed are too, and to ignore the outside world and only speak on sanctioned world events. George Clooney can support a campaign calling for intervention in Darfur because of U.S. interests in the region, but if he were to mention Palestine, he’d be lambasted.

However, outside of imperialist ruling-class centers, in countries that have their independence — even in oppressed communities inside the imperialist centers — where the cultures reflect defiance of Western world hegemony and bourgeois ideals, or in a new society with a different mode of production and rebellion against oppression, bucking the mainstream and refusal to submit to it is appreciated.

Hero to the Cuban people

On June 11, a hero to the Cuban people, an athlete known as perhaps the greatest amateur boxer, passed away at a much-too-early age from a heart attack. Teofilo Stevenson, known as Pirolo in Cuba, won three Olympic gold medals — in 1972, 1976 and 1980. He also won three world amateur golds — two at heavyweight and one at superheavyweight in 1986 — and one bronze and two gold medals at heavyweight at the Pan American games.

Muhammad Ali, known as “the greatest,” as much for his boxing prowess as for his politically principled stances on Vietnam and the Black struggle, released a message about the passing of Teofilo that reads in part, “Stevenson was one of the greatest. ... Despite his never fighting as a professional, having conquered three Olympic gold medals in three different Olympic games meant that he wouldn’t have been an easy rival.”

What would have kept such a skilled athlete from turning pro and taking advantage of all the pomp and riches, which he was offered in the late 1970s? Lately there has been a stable of Cuban athletes, especially boxers, the most famous of which is Yuriorkis Gamboa, who have been lured away by U.S. agents, who constantly harass and bribe Cuban athletes wherever they go, promising them lucrative contracts worth millions of dollars.

Teofilo definitely had the skills. Some would compare him to Ali. Both were somewhat lithe for their division,



African National Congress President Nelson Mandela center, Cuban Olympic boxer Teofilo Stevenson, left and Fidel Castro, right, on July 25,1991, in Havana.

didn’t lumber — a stereotype for heavyweight fighters — had supreme footwork and textbook one-two combinations. Ali glided, shuffled and danced, popping a stiff jab, his hands held low at times, slipping punches, using his footwork to get out of harm’s way and setting up foes for his right. Teofilo didn’t use the same techniques, but worked behind his jab, moved laterally at ease, his right hand held at his chin. He would step back, slightly out of reach, the straight right being his best weapon, like a sniper in the bushes, and it took down many a target.

Teofilo had the skills and the pedigree. He was offered a hefty sum in the late 1970s to turn pro and fight an Ali whose skills were greatly diminished. No doubt, there were many who were salivating at the prospect of a Cuban defector beating a defiant Black athlete or vice versa.

In his June 12 Reflections, Fidel Castro writes, “News arrived yesterday after 4:00 p.m. No other amateur boxer shone so much in the history of that sport. He could have achieved another two Olympic titles if it hadn’t been for certain duties that the principles of internationalism imposed on the Revolution. No money in the world would have been enough to bribe Stevenson. Glory be to his memory forever!”

Principles of internationalism

Teofilo was a great boxer. The son of a Cuban mother and a father who arrived as an immigrant from St. Vincent, he started boxing at a young age. Throughout his life, he maintained his connection to the sport that brought him so much adoration. With his gold medal, he was awarded the Val Baker Trophy in 1972, given to the top boxer in the Olympics. He also was given the Honored Master of Sports of the USSR in 1972. Later in life, he became a trainer of other Cuban boxers.

More than being a great boxer though, he was a revolutionary. When offered millions to turn pro he would say, “What is one million dollars compared to the love of 8 million Cubans?”

Such a commitment would seem strange in a bourgeois capitalist country such as the U.S.; to turn down the fame and fortune would appear sacrilegious. To the people of Cuba though, it makes perfect sense. Cuba may be an underdeveloped country due to 50 years of the U.S. blockade, but destitution, institutional racism, sexism and homophobia are combated. It is because, ever since the revolution of 1959, Cuba has set about the path of constructing a new human being.

The beliefs and mores of capitalism are the foundation of capitalist society and flow from the mode of production, which is based on exploitation. It is a society based on com-

Continued on page 11

WORKERS WORLD this week...

★ In the U.S.

STOP stop-&frisk.....	1
Central N.Y. Pride: ‘Free CeCe!’.....	3
CeCe McDonald & the right to self-defense	3
Trans Day of Action.....	3
Donna Summer: disco queen.....	3
Obama reacts to immigration struggle.....	4
Detroit fiscal crisis made by banks	4
Sit-in launched to protest Oakland school closures.....	5
Support grows for pizza plant workers.....	5
On the picket line	5
Workers fight for jobs, homes, against police brutality....	6
Regarding the murder of Darius Simmons	6
Indigenous peoples say: ‘No celebration for desecration’ ..	6
Plans advance for protest at Republican Convention	7
Celebrating 35 years of WW Supporter Program.....	9
An appeal for your support	9

★ Around the world

Cuba’s Teofilo Stevenson, a true champion.....	2
U.S. ‘training’ and intelligence gathering in Africa.....	7
Corporate media bias demonizes Syrian gov’t.....	8
‘Hands off Syria & Iran! No drones!’.....	8
Libya sham elections postponed	8
Greek elections over, class struggle continues.....	10
Nat’l day of action in solidarity with Honduras	11
20th Cuba Friendshipment	11
Protests to support Mexican workers’ resistance.....	11

★ Editorials

Egyptian army’s power grab	10
----------------------------------	----

★ Noticias En Español

Los Cinco Cubanos	12
Conferencia en Tijuana	12

Workers World
55 West 17 Street
New York, N.Y. 10011
Phone: 212.627.2994
E-mail: ww@workers.org
Web: www.workers.org
Vol. 54, No. 25 • June 28, 2012
Closing date: June 19, 2012
Editor: Deirdre Griswold
Technical Editor: Lal Roohk
Managing Editors: John Catalinotto, LeiLani Dowell,
Leslie Feinberg, Kris Hamel, Monica Moorehead,
Gary Wilson
West Coast Editor: John Parker
Contributing Editors: Abayomi Azikiwe,
Greg Butterfield, Jaimeson Champion, G. Dunkel,
Fred Goldstein, Teresa Gutierrez, Larry Hales,
Berta Joubert-Ceci, Cheryl LaBash,
Milt Neidenberg, Bryan G. Pfeifer, Betsey Piette,
Minnie Bruce Pratt, Gloria Rubac
Technical Staff: Sue Davis, Shelley Ettinger,
Bob McCubbin, Maggie Vascassenno
Mundo Obrero: Carl Glenn, Teresa Gutierrez,
Berta Joubert-Ceci, Donna Lazarus, Michael Martínez,
Carlos Vargas
Supporter Program: Sue Davis, coordinator

Copyright © 2011 Workers World. Verbatim copying and distribution of articles is permitted in any medium without royalty provided this notice is preserved. Workers World (ISSN-1070-4205) is published weekly except the first week of January by WW Publishers, 55 W. 17 St., N.Y., N.Y. 10011. Phone: 212.627.2994. Subscriptions: One year: \$30; institutions: \$35. Letters to the editor may be condensed and edited. Articles can be freely reprinted, with credit to Workers World, 55 W. 17 St., New York, NY 10011. Back issues and individual articles are available on microfilm and/or photocopy from University Microfilms International, 300 Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48106. A searchable archive is available on the Web at www.workers.org. A headline digest is available via e-mail subscription. Subscription information is at workers.org/email.php. Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Workers World, 55 W. 17 St., 5th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10011.

JOIN US

Workers World Party (WWP) fights for socialism and engages in struggles on all the issues that face the working class & oppressed peoples — Black & white, Latino/a, Asian, Arab and Native peoples, women & men, young & old, lesbian, gay, bi, straight, trans, disabled, working, unemployed, undocumented & students. If you would like to know more about WWP, or to join us in these struggles, contact the branch nearest you.

National Office
55 W. 17 St.
New York, NY 10011
212.627.2994
wwp@workers.org
Atlanta
P.O. Box 5565
Atlanta, GA 30307
404.627.0185
atlanta@workers.org
Baltimore
c/o Solidarity Center
2011 N. Charles St.
Baltimore, MD 21218
443.909.8964
baltimore@workers.org
Boston
284 Amory St.
Boston, MA 02130
617.522.6626
Fax 617.983.3836
boston@workers.org

Buffalo, N.Y.
367 Delaware Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14202
716.883.2534
buffalo@workers.org
Chicago
27 N. Wacker Dr. #138
Chicago, IL 60606
chicago@workers.org
312.229.0161
Cleveland
P.O. Box 5963
Cleveland, OH 44101
216.738.0320
cleveland@workers.org
Denver
denver@workers.org
Detroit
5920 Second Ave.
Detroit, MI 48202
313.459.0777
detroit@workers.org

Durham, N.C.
331 W. Main St., Ste. 408
Durham, NC 27701
919.322.9970
durham@workers.org
Houston
P.O. Box 3454
Houston, TX 77253-3454
713.503.2633
houston@workers.org
Los Angeles
1905 Rodeo Rd.
Los Angeles, CA 90018
la@workers.org
323.515.5870
Milwaukee
milwaukee@workers.org
Philadelphia
P.O. Box 34249
Philadelphia, PA 19101
610.931.2615
phila@workers.org

Pittsburgh
pittsburgh@workers.org
Rochester, N.Y.
585.436.6458
rochester@workers.org
San Diego
P.O. Box 33447
San Diego, CA 92163
619.692.0355
sandiego@workers.org
San Francisco
2940 16th St., #207
San Francisco
CA 94103
415.738.4739
sf@workers.org
Tucson, Ariz.
tucson@workers.org
Washington, D.C.
P.O. Box 57300
Washington, DC 20037
dc@workers.org

Central N.Y. Pride: ‘Free CeCe!’

A youth-organized and youth-led contingent in the Central New York Pride 2012 march in Syracuse, N.Y., demanded: “Free CeCe McDonald! March for CeCe!” on June 16.

Posters calling for the solidarity contingent with McDonald were stapled up in Syracuse during the week preceding the Pride march. The posters emphasized: “Attack transphobia, racism, homophobia, women-hating and the

prison-industrial complex!”

More than a dozen people stepped off on the long Pride march route here to leaflet and answer questions about this struggle for the right to self-defense against oppressions.

For more information about her struggle and how you can help CeCe McDonald free herself, visit supportcece.wordpress.com.

— Minnie Bruce Pratt



Young African-American transwoman

CeCe McDonald & the right to self-defense

By Kris Hamel

Activists in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer liberation movement and allies all around the United States are spreading the word about the injustice facing CeCe McDonald in Minnesota. In cities large and small — including Syracuse, N.Y.; Santa Rosa, Calif.; Baltimore; Portland, Ore.; Detroit; Olympia, Wash.; Brooklyn, N.Y.; and Boston, among many others — demands for McDonald’s freedom have been raised at Pride marches and events. From signs and banners, T-shirts emblazoned with the words “Free CeCe,” to floats, graffiti and other creative expressions, McDonald’s case is generating publicity and solidarity, not just in the U.S. but in other countries as well.

McDonald, now 24, is an African-American transgender woman from Minneapolis. Originally from Chicago, she came out as a trans person at the age of 14. She became active in the community in Minneapolis, often participating in panels on fighting racism and transgender oppression, and was known for giving guidance and support to LGBTQ youth. Talented in fashion design, McDonald had been pursuing her associate’s degree in fashion at a local college and supporting herself through part-time work in a café.

A little over a year ago, on June 5, 2011, McDonald’s life was forever changed after she defended herself and her friends from a brutal attack by two women and a man, all of whom were white and much older than she and her friends, as McDonald and her friends were on their way to a neighborhood store. The trio was standing outside a bar and began hurling racist, anti-trans epithets and threats at the youth, all of whom were African

Americans and queer or allied. One of the women smashed a bar mug into McDonald’s face, piercing her cheek and salivary gland. A fight ensued and the white male, replete with a swastika tattoo, lay dead from a stab wound.

McDonald, the victim and survivor, was the only one arrested and jailed after this vicious attack by racist bigots. She was charged with second-degree murder and faced decades in prison if convicted. Instead, she agreed to the prosecution’s offer of pleading guilty to a reduced charge of second-degree manslaughter and was sentenced on June 4 to a prison term of 41 months.

A loud and militant protest took place outside the Hennepin County Jail in Minneapolis the night of McDonald’s sentencing. Leslie Feinberg, the award-winning author of “Stone Butch Blues” and “Transgender Warriors,” was arrested and held without bond for three nights before a flood of calls and emails to the county attorney resulted in her release and felony charges dropped. Feinberg has urged support and solidarity for McDonald at Pride events around the U.S.

Fighting back against oppression

The February 2011 report, “Injustice at Every Turn: The National Transgender Discrimination Survey,” depicts in harsh statistics the injustices, discrimination, bigotry, violence and other forms of oppression visited upon transgender individuals. African-American trans people face the worst of it, according to the National Black Justice Coalition, which partnered with the National Center for Transgender Equality and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force to look at how racism and anti-trans bigotry combine into “par-

ticularly devastating levels” of discrimination and bias. (thetaskforce.org)

The report showed African-American trans people live in extreme poverty, with 34 percent reporting an annual household income of less than \$10,000; 49 percent of respondents had attempted suicide; 49 percent of Black trans people attending school reported harassment; 27 percent faced physical assault; and 15 percent were sexually assaulted at school.

Black transgender people had an extremely high unemployment rate at 26 percent, two times the rate of the overall transgender sample and four times the general population’s rate. At work, 46 percent of African-American transgender people were harassed, 15 percent physically attacked and 13 percent sexually assaulted on the job, while 32 percent of Black transgender people lost their employment due to bias and 48 percent were not hired for a job due to bias.

Of Black transgender people who had interacted with police, 38 percent reported harassment, 14 percent reported physical assault, and 6 percent reported sexual assault by cops. Thirty-five percent had been arrested or held in a cell due to bias at some point in their lives. Twenty-nine percent of African-American respondents

who had been to jail or prison reported being physically assaulted and 32 percent reported being sexually assaulted while in custody.

The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs issued a report in 2011 on “hate” violence motivated by gender identity and expression, sexuality and HIV status. A whopping 70 percent of anti-LGBT murders in 2010 were of people of color. Forty-four percent of these victims were transgender women.

On April 3, Coko Williams was found shot and killed — with her throat also slashed — in Detroit. On April 16, Paige Clay was found dead in Chicago’s West Garfield Park from a single gunshot to her forehead. Brandy Martell was shot and killed on April 29 in Oakland, Calif. All three of these victims were trans women of color.

CeCe McDonald dared to stand up to her attackers, to defend herself and fight back against racist bigots, which is every oppressed person’s right. Now she is being criminalized and punished by a racist, sexist, anti-trans, anti-poor “justice” system. She deserves all our support and solidarity. Go to supportcece.wordpress.com for how you can help organize to free CeCe McDonald. □

8TH ANNUAL Trans Day of Action

The 8th annual Trans Day of Action for Social and Economic Justice happens June 22 in New York City, from 3 to 7 p.m., starting at Washington Square Park. All trans and gender nonconforming groups and allies are invited to participate and organize contingents for the march and rally. Trans Day of Action was initiated by TransJustice of the Audre Lorde Project, a lesbian, gay, bisexual, two-spirit, trans and gender nonconforming people of color center for community organizing.

“TGNC People of Color and allies will take on the streets of New York City once again and demand justice, to let the world know that the Stonewall rebellion is not over and we will continue fighting for justice, raising our voices until we are heard,” states a call to action for this event.

“We as TGNC POC recognize the importance of working together alongside other movements to create the world we want to see. We live in a time when oppressed peoples including people of color, immigrants, youth and elders, people with disabilities, women and TGNC people, and poor people are underserved, face higher levels of discrimination, heightened surveillance and experience increased violence at the hands of the state.

“We must unite and work together towards dismantling the transphobia, racism, classism, sexism, ageism, ableism, homophobia and xenophobia that permeate our movements for social justice, while also celebrating the victories and strides for the rights of TGNC POC. Let’s come together to let the world know that TGNC rights will not be undermined and together we will not be silenced!”

Among the points of unity and demands for Trans Day of Action are an end to profiling, harassment and brutality at the hands of the police; access to respectful and safe housing; access to the New York City LGBT Center without fear of harassment or censorship ... to organize on “the issue of the Israeli/Palestinian divide”; full legalization of all immigrants; solidarity with all prisoners, especially the many TGNC POC people behind the walls; the right to access health care, receive hormones and necessary surgery; and immediate removal of all U.S. troops from all countries under occupation.

To get involved or for more information, contact TransJustice at 212-463-0342 ext. 15 or visit alp.org.

— WW New York bureau

Mumia Abu-Jamal on Donna Summer: disco queen

This column was written on May 24, following Donna Summer’s death on May 17.

It’s not cool to say it, but there was a time when disco was cool. One of the coolest disco-doers of ‘em all was Donna Summer, whose voice, brown beauty and power of performance made her a master of the game. Her clear, church-trained vocal instrument commanded many a song that didn’t belong in church: “Bad Girl,” “Love to Love You, Baby,” “Hot Stuff,” “Last Dance” and “Nite Life” — just to name a few.

In an era when Black pop music was almost as segregated as its people, disco — with its repetitive, synthesizer-driven, looped dance tracks — seemed to prom-

ise a larger payday and more commercial success for Black musicians and artists.

Instead, the opposite was true. Many Black radio stations, chasing the apparent promise of this new pop music, jettisoned their Black acts, refused to play Black funk — and before long — funk was gone, and disco was entering its death rattle. In the end, disco was like neon — warm and colorful — but neither hot nor funky.

The era seemed to shine brighter when Donna Summer graced the stage.

Donna Summer — Disco Queen — ends the Dance — at 63.

The writer cites “Funk: The Music, the People, and the Rhythm of The One,” by Frederick Rickey Vincent (St. Martin’s Press, 1996).

Obama reacts to immigration struggle

By Teresa Gutierrez

President Barack Obama made a significant announcement about immigration policy on June 15.

Obama announced that he had signed a deferred deportation act that could allow tens of thousands of undocumented youth to remain in the U.S. without fear of deportation and grant them the right to apply for work permits. The policy could provide relief from deportation for approximately 800,000 young immigrants.

According to a Department of Homeland Security fact sheet, in order to be eligible for deferred action from deportation, individuals must:

- Have come to the U.S. before the age of 16;
- Have resided continuously in the U.S. prior to June 15 and be present in the U.S. on this date;
- Currently be in school, have graduated from high school, have a GED certificate or have been honorably discharged from the Coast Guard or U.S. armed forces;
- Have not been convicted of “a felony offense, a significant misdemeanor offense, multiple misdemeanor offenses, or otherwise pose a threat to national security or public safety”; and
- Not be above the age of 30.

What led to this announcement?

Obama’s action was a result of the struggle of the Dreamers, the thousands of undocumented youth who have for more than 10 years been organizing to get



the DREAM Act passed. This piece of federal legislation would provide legalization for children who had come to the U.S. before they were 15 and met other criteria.

The Dreamers have boldly and bravely come out as “undocumented and unafraid.” They have held rallies and demonstrations, participated in sit-ins and chained themselves to offices, held mock graduation ceremonies, and made great sacrifices to get the attention of the government as well as the immigrant rights movement.

Although Obama’s announcement brought instant reaction from the right wing about granting “amnesty” to the undocumented, immigrant rights activists were cautious about the announcement.

Many pointed out that other announcements favorable to the undocumented, such as last year’s statement about the use of “prosecutorial discretion,” have not really been implemented. In fact,

immigrant groups say that only about 1 percent of cases were closed as a result of such discretion.

And it is an election year. Many are quick to question the motives behind the announcement.

The New York State Youth Leadership Council declared in a press release: “Until Obama signs an actual executive order promptly halting the deportation of all undocumented youth, youth across the nation will continue to occupy offices demanding that President Obama sign the order. The Prosecuto-

rial Discretion recommendation unfortunately served as a huge disappointment to us. For too long, undocumented youth have served as pawns in partisan political games.” (nysylc.org, June 15)

The right wing, Glenn Beck and many Republicans immediately used President Obama’s announcement to ratchet up the anti-immigrant rhetoric. During the news conference where Obama made his announcement, a conservative blogger was allowed to heckle Obama, shouting, “What about jobs for Americans?”

This is the ultimate hypocrisy, as the far-right is using the dire unemployment crisis as a demagogic excuse to divide workers. Despite the right-wing rhetoric, Obama’s announcement does **not** mean legalization for the 800,000 young people who could be affected.

A statement issued by the May 1 Coalition for Worker & Immigrant Rights of New York reads: “The over 14 million un-

documented people in this country have earned legalization. It is U.S. foreign and economic policy to begin with that is the main cause of forced migration from Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia and Africa. And this announcement comes as we await the outcome of the Supreme Court ruling on Arizona’s SB1070, which is racial profiling on steroids. A favorable ruling [for the undocumented] is not expected; that decision would result in driving the undocumented further underground open to more extreme exploitation such as massive wage theft.”

The statement continues: “The president’s announcement also comes as the militarization of the U.S./Mexican border continues, resulting in more deaths at the border. And our youth continue to be targeted, including deaths such as that of Trayvon Martin and Anastacio Hernandez-Reyes.” (To get a copy of the statement or to find out more about the coalition, visit may1.info.)

The slogan “Si se puede” (Yes, we can) became a national rallying cry in 2006 as a result of the massive upsurge of immigrants marching for their rights. “Si se puede” continues to be a demand today. It should be matched with “The struggle continues” (La lucha continua) as immigrants and their supporters are determined to win not only legalization for all the undocumented, but all workers’ rights — not just for the youth looking to get into college, but also for every day laborer, domestic worker or construction worker around the country. Clearly a massive people’s power movement that unites all workers in a fight for their lives is urgently needed.

Gutierrez is the co-coordinator of the May 1 Coalition for Worker & Immigrant Rights of New York.

Detroit fiscal crisis made by banks

By Jerry Goldberg
Detroit

Recent events have exposed the brazenness of the banks in asserting their control over the city of Detroit’s finances, even if this means the destruction of all city services in one of the poorest cities in the U.S.

The city of Detroit’s lead attorney, Krystal Crittenton, challenged the legality of the “consent agreement” entered into between Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder and Mayor Dave Bing and the Detroit City Council. This agreement was entered into in lieu of the imposition of an emergency manager over the city pursuant to Public Act 4, the bankers’ bill, which provides for state takeovers of cities facing fiscal crises.

Public Act 4 guarantees the banks “payment in full of the scheduled debt service requirements on all bonds, notes and municipal securities.” It provides for the busting of union contracts and wholesale privatization of services to insure that debt service to the banks gets paid. The consent agreement between the city and state implements Public Act 4 through the creation of a financial advisory board to oversee the city, while formally leaving the mayor and City Council in place.

When Detroit’s corporation counsel challenged the consent agreement, Gov. Snyder’s response was to announce that if the lawsuit was not dropped, \$80 million in state revenue sharing owed to Detroit would instead be paid directly to U.S. Bank to be used for payment of debt service.

U.S. Bank is one of the banks, along with Chase and Bank of America (also

making millions on city debt service), that criminally targeted Detroit by selling racist, fraudulent, predatory loans to more than 80 percent of homeowners taking out mortgages or refinancing. This directly led to the foreclosure crisis that destroyed the tax base of Detroit and drove approximately 250,000 residents from the city.

U.S. Bank is now being sued by the National Fair Housing Alliance and others for racist practices across the country. One of the central issues in the lawsuit is that U.S. Bank allowed homes it seized through foreclosure to sit and rot in inner cities, where people of color predominate, while maintaining foreclosed properties in white suburban areas. No city has been harder hit by this practice than Detroit, where block after block is filled with rotting, vacant structures post-foreclosure.

On June 15, the Moratorium NOW! Coalition to Stop Foreclosures, Evictions & Utility Shutoffs held a demonstration at U.S. Bank and demanded: Stop the bank’s robbery of Detroit! Money for jobs and human services, not the banks! and Suspend the city’s debt service payments to the banks! Demonstrators expressed solidarity with the Greek working class in their fight against austerity being imposed by the banks in an almost identical fashion to Detroit.

Stop debt service, pay workers instead

Rather than challenge Snyder’s outrageous threat to turn over the city’s state revenue funds to a bank that participated in the destruction of the city, Detroit Mayor Bing ran to the City Council to announce that if the lawsuit was not

dropped, in light of Snyder’s announcement, the city would be broke and unable to pay its workers. He hired an attorney from the corporate firm of Miller Canfield to represent him in challenging the city’s own corporation counsel’s lawsuit. This corporate attorney was a drafter of Public Act 4 as well as the city’s predatory bond deals with the banks.

In the face of this pressure, a judge quickly dismissed the lawsuit brought by Crittenton, citing an old version of the city charter in doing so. Crittenton brought her case under the revised city charter, which was adopted last year.

When the lawsuit was dropped, suddenly it was revealed what Bing’s harping about Detroit going broke was really all about. The city had a \$32.4 million payment for debt service on the city’s pension obligation certificates due. The city needed the state funds, not to pay the workers or maintain services, but to make sure that the banks were paid in a timely fashion.

Pension obligation certificates are predatory loans imposed on cities all across the U.S. by the banks. The banks lured cities into swapping adjustable rate for fixed rate bonds at the precise moment the banks knew they were about to be bailed out by the government, meaning interest rates would be drastically declining. By betting wrong on the POCs at the ratings agencies’ urging, cities like Detroit were left on the hook, owing millions of dollars in added debt, as well as additional millions for penalties and hedge fund payments.

The city of Detroit owes \$12 billion to the banks and an additional \$4.9 billion

in interest payments on that debt. Without that debt service hanging over the city, Detroit would have plenty of funds to maintain city workers’ jobs and needed services for its people. Snyder’s Financial Review Team report of March 26 stated: “While the general fund had an operating surplus (i.e. revenues in excess of expenditures) of \$150,077,184, net transfers out of the general fund of \$206,947,605 resulted in a negative net change ... of \$56,870,421.” (p.7) “Most of the outgoing transfers ... were made for debt service.” (pp. 5-6)

Unfortunately, the spineless Mayor Bing and City Council majority, led by Council President Charles Pugh, are calling for the layoff of 2,500 city workers, and elimination of virtually all city services except the police and fire department. They are even giving up the city administration of Head Start and Community Service Block Grants, even though these are federally funded programs that do not cost the city one dime.

While the Michigan Court of Appeals announced on June 14 that Public Act 4 must be put to a vote of the people of Michigan in light of a petition initiative that gathered more than 200,000 signatures for a referendum on the Act, it remains unclear whether the decision sanctioning the signatures will be appealed to the reactionary Michigan Supreme Court.

However, even if Public Act 4 is put to a vote, the outcome will rest on exposing that it is the banks (which are destroying the livelihoods of people throughout the state) that are behind the financial crises facing oppressed cities across Michigan, and not “corrupt” city officials. □

ON THE PICKET LINE

By Sue Davis

Verizon workers to rally nationally June 22

On June 22, Verizon workers are rallying again all across the country to demand a fair contract. They refuse to accept the cutbacks the \$100 billion company — whose profits are in the tens of billions — wants to ram down their throats. The 45,000 workers know they're the ones who made Verizon's profits possible, so they don't intend to back down. For details about the National Day of Action for Verizon Workers in your area, visit unityatverizon.com.

Meanwhile, on June 13, several hundred Verizon workers rallied with consumer advocates and community organizations in front of the Federal Communications Commission in Washington, D.C., to stop Verizon's plan to cross-market and resell cable video services with some of the country's largest cable operators, including Comcast, Time Warner Cable and Cox. Not only would this deal eliminate competition, kill thousands of jobs and deepen the digital divide between poor cities and wealthy suburbs, but consumers would have fewer choices and higher bills. Verizon workers, represented by the Communication Workers, presented to FCC officials more than 130,000 petitions from consumers opposing the deal. (cwa-union.org, June 14)

VA workers protest wage cuts for lowest-paid workers

On June 13, Veterans Administration workers, many of whom are vets themselves, protested the proposed downgrading of wages for Veterans Health Administration's lowest-paid employees. After picketing in front of the VA building in Washington, D.C., with signs and chants like "Downgrades = rip offs," more than 500 demonstrators rallied in Lafayette Park. The vets — many of whom are disabled, women and people of color — testified about how the downgrades would adversely affect their families and how this attack is part of the ongoing right-wing assault on public sector workers. Members of the American Federation of Government Employees were joined by workers from other VA offices and members of a wide variety of activist unions in the D.C. area. AFGE National Secretary-Treasurer J. David Cox told Union City that by focusing on the lowest-paid workers, the cuts are forcing "a constant spiral to the bottom. It's the Walmart syndrome." (Union City, Metro Washington AFL-CIO Council online newsletter, June 14)

Call for higher federal minimum wage

A bill calling for the federal minimum wage to be raised from \$7.25 an hour to \$10 was announced on June 6 by chief sponsor Rep. Jesse L. Jackson Jr. Noting that the banks, auto corporations and Wall Street have all been bailed out, Jackson said, "Now it's time to bail out working people who work hard every day and they still only make \$7.25. The only way to do that is to raise the minimum wage." He pointed out that the purchasing power of roughly 30 million people would help bolster the stagnating economy. The last federal increase was passed in 2007, but 18 states now have rates that are higher than that. Statistics show that the call for a minimum wage of \$10 is not outrageous. If the \$1.60 minimum wage of 1968 were adjusted for inflation, it would be about \$10 an hour — in 2012 dollars. (New York Times, June 7)

New law protects Maryland's union workers

On May 2, Maryland became one of just four states that legally protects union members' personal information. The bill makes communication between union representatives and members involved in a grievance or arbitration "privileged information." That means management can no longer demand to have legal access to information about a member's situation from union reps or shop stewards. "This historic legislation will benefit all unions in Maryland," commented Metro Washington AFL-CIO Council President Jos Williams. (Union City, May 24) □

Sit-in launched to protest Oakland school closures

By Judy Greenspan
Oakland, Calif.

June 15 ended the school year for thousands of students in the city of Oakland. But at one public school, Lakeview Elementary, located in the flatlands of this city, a determined coalition of parents, students, teachers and community members started an open-ended sit-in to stop the closure of that school and four others in this city.

The occupation of Lakeview Elementary arose out of a year-long struggle to stop the closure of 30 Oakland public schools. Protest marches organized and supported by a community coalition of parents, teachers, students, Occupy Oakland activists and others brought out thousands of people.

Oakland School Superintendent Tony Smith finally backed down from closing such a large number of struggling schools. However, the School Board voted and approved the closure of five Oakland elementary schools. According to the organizers of today's sit-in action, four of the five schools slated for closure are predominantly Black and the fifth is mostly Latino/a. In addition, four of the closed schools — Santa Fe, Marshall, Maxwell Park and Lazear Elementary — will be replaced by charter schools, which are privately run and controlled.

At a rally on school grounds following the last school bell of the year, parents and teachers alike described how the community will be destabilized by the neighborhood school closure. Young people and their families from Lakeview Elementary then camped out overnight on the school grounds.



WW PHOTO: JUDY GREENSPAN

Joel Velasquez, his son Zacqui and friend Sincere, at the rally on the last day of school.

The next day, a rally in front of the school drew more than 150 people. Many students came with their families. Zacqui, the son of one of the parent organizers, led chants on the bullhorn. Nick Palmquist, a member of Education for the 99% (a group of community allies and Occupy Oakland activists), challenged the Oakland school board to reopen the closed schools. "They can find trillions of dollars to bail out the banks and fight wars all over the world. You mean they can't find \$2 million to keep our schools open and running?" Palmquist said.

Joel Velasquez, a parent of two Lakeview students and a leader of this fightback, implored the crowd to become more involved. "Nobody has the power to take away our children's education," he said. "How can the

richest nation in the world not have enough money?" Velasquez said.

Pam Chin, a Lakeview veteran teacher of 25 years, also spoke out against the school closures. Chin talked about what Lakeview has meant to her and to her students.

On June 18, the Lakeview community opened a "People's School for Public Education" that was immediately shut down by the Oakland police, who issued a stay away order. A rally was called for later that afternoon to defend the occupation.

The sit-in organizers announced plans to hold a rally every day at 2 p.m. Community members are being urged to come down to Lakeview Elementary, 746 Grand Avenue, Oakland, to support this struggle.

(This writer is an elementary school teacher in nearby Richmond.)

Support grows for pizza plant workers

By Bryan G. Pfeifer

Members of the Palermo's Workers Union are entering their third week on strike, with growing support from across Wisconsin, nationally and internationally. The strike is now the cutting-edge working-class struggle in Wisconsin. Hundreds of multinational supporters have joined the bilingual picket line at various times since the strike began on June 1. Other support actions, such as building support for a boycott of Palermo's Pizza, are underway.

The mostly Latino/a workers at the plant, which produces frozen pizzas for grocery stores, struck because of the company's attempt to break a union organizing drive by firing pro-union workers, hiring replacement workers and bringing in Immigration and Customs Enforcement — federal immigration agents. The National Labor Relations Board has scheduled a union recognition vote for July 6.

A call for a YES! June 15 picket line delegation reads, "Youth Empowered in the Struggle! is standing in solidarity with workers at Palermo's Pizza in Milwaukee. Why? Workers at Palermo's have been striking for several days after trying to organize better safety conditions within the plant. Palermo's refuses to let them orga-

nize, even after several workers have been injured. This eventually led to a strike." YES! is the youth arm of Voces de la Frontera, a Milwaukee-based immigrant rights organization (vdlf.org).

"As you all know," the statement continues, "Wisconsin has been through a very rough patch when it comes to workers' rights. This is another example of attacks on workers. Enough is enough!" YES! members have been a strong presence daily on the picket line.

Besides youth and students, every day members of public and private sector unions, and community and faith-based organizations are on the picket line and elsewhere building support.

Members of teachers unions from Madison and Milwaukee bring supplies and food to the picket line daily and have helped organize various fundraisers. On June 14, the American Federation of Teachers Local 212 at the Milwaukee Area Technical College helped to organize a fund-



raiser at El Local restaurant that raised a few thousand dollars for the strikers.

The Overpass Light Brigade brings a neon sign stating "Boycott Palermo's" to the picket line and has volunteers hoist the sign over the nearby Interstate 94 overpass.

Occupy Milwaukee and members of other Occupy Wall Street groups in Wisconsin, such as Occupy Riverwest, are a frequent presence on the picket

line. The Riverwest Co-Op in Milwaukee has removed all Palermo's products from its store. Support resolutions and statements, including from the national AFL-CIO and from around the world, have been sent to the Palermo Workers Union.

For more information and how to support the strike: www.vdlf.org. On Twitter: tinyurl.com/brss87y. Supporters can sign the petition at tinyurl.com/6m7n3b6.

Pfeifer is an organizer of the WI Bail Out The People Movement, which is supporting the strike: www.wibailoutpeople.org.

Workers fight for jobs, homes, against police brutality

BALTIMORE

By Gene Clancy

The video presents a sickening example of police brutality and repression. Black worker Thomas Threatt lies on the street. Police officers kneel on his back and neck while other cops repeatedly spray Mace, point-blank, in his face. One cop grabs Threatt's hair and yanks his head back just before the Mace is sprayed in his eyes. (YouTube video, youtu.be/tv7hUcdl5AQ)

Thomas Threatt had committed no crime. He was merely a part of a demonstration protesting a giant development company that kicked people out of their homes and then failed to keep its promises to provide jobs to the local community.

On March 29, Community Churches United called for a jobs march to a construction site near Johns Hopkins Hospital, in an area of Baltimore City slated for demolition and development. Other organizations, including the Baltimore Occupy 4 Jobs organization, supported the action.

Residents of this Eastside neighborhood have been fighting for fairness regarding the planned destruction of their homes, and they have been demanding

jobs in the redevelopment of this area by East Baltimore Development Inc.

As part of the \$1.8 billion EBDI project, whole city blocks around Hopkins Hospital have been leveled and more than 700 families "relocated." One office building and several apartment buildings have been completed. In return for destroying their homes, EBDI promised displaced residents that the corporation would provide jobs in the local communities.

East Baltimore has been hit hard by joblessness and foreclosures, yet only 23 of over 1,000 jobs created by the EBDI (working hand in hand with Hopkins Hospital, which pays no taxes) have been filled by Black workers in a community that is predominantly Black and poor. Youth unemployment is at 56 percent.

Maryland District 45 state delegate, Talmadge Branch, cited an analysis of hiring for the state's lab project that showed that "of the \$57.5 million in contracts awarded so far, only \$13.4 million went to businesses in Baltimore and only \$4.4 million to local minority-owned businesses." (Baltimore Brew, June 6)

In June, a coalition of state and city

elected officials held a demonstration of their own outside the EBDI offices and called for a halt to the project until more local residents could be hired.

Police brutal with workers

The March demonstration took place outside a \$170 million laboratory being built for the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Police met the demonstrators with violence and brutality.

No police — who had violently violated the rights of the protesters — were charged. Instead, four protesters — William Simms; Richie Armstrong, an organizer for Community Churches United; and Earl King; along with Thomas Threatt, were singled out and arrested. They face a variety of charges, some with as many as six counts, including the famous catchall charges of disorderly conduct, failure to obey a peace officer and loitering.

"I'm not pleading guilty. I didn't do nothing wrong," Thomas Threatt said outside the courthouse, as supporters picketed, calling the police action against Threatt "abusive." (Baltimore Brew, June 6)

Police brutality is not applied only to

workers trying to get a job. As elsewhere in the U.S., youth, high school and college students, the unemployed, seniors, immigrants, LGBTQ community members, homeless people, Occupiers and just about everyone is subject to police abuse if they stand up for their rights — or often for simply being who they are!

On Saturday, June 30, a People's Assembly will hold hearings in Baltimore to expose and oppose police violence and abuse. The hearings will take place from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Sharp Memorial United Methodist Church at Dolphin and Ettings streets. The hearing has been organized by the Justice4Trayvon organization, which led a large demonstration on March 26 to demand justice for Trayvon Martin.

Sharon Black, an organizer for the Justice4Trayvon organization, told Workers World:

"Police violence is a crime against all working and poor people. If the police can silence protest through arrests and brutality, it is a blow against all of us, whether we are in the Occupy movement, with a union, fighting to stop racism, war, or injustice, no matter where we live or reside." □

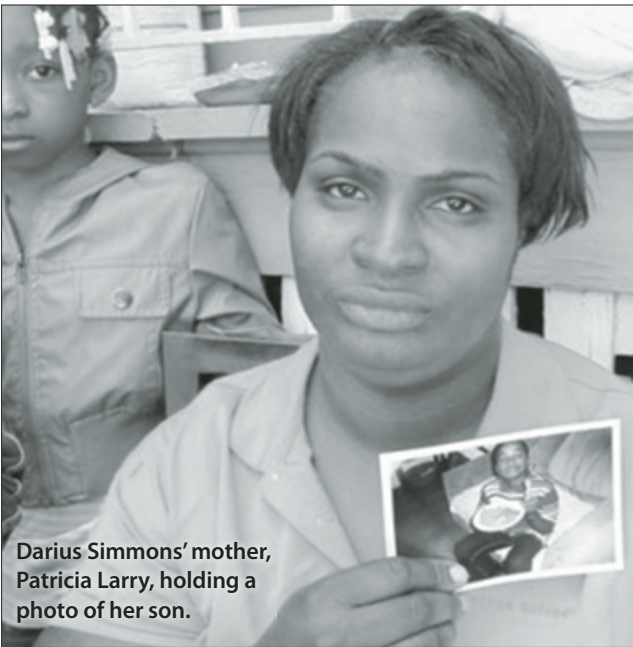
Statement from Muhammad Mosque No. 3:

'Regarding the Murder of Darius Simmons'

Below is a statement regarding the murder of 13-year-old Darius Simmons by white vigilante, John Spooner. Simmons' murder took place in a climate of right-wing racism, anti-worker attacks and apartheid-type oppression against Milwaukee's African-American community, fostered by the 1% and their politicians.

The Milwaukee police's actions and response to Simmons' murder is standard practice. From Ernest Lacy to Frank Jude Jr.; to recent revelations of Milwaukee police engaging in street strip searches of African Americans that include "cavity searches"; to planting drugs on residents and beating them, there's a historical pattern of police terrorism against communities of color in particular.

This statement is being republished in solidarity with those in the African-



Darius Simmons' mother, Patricia Larry, holding a photo of her son.

American community but also all communities of color and others victimized by police brutality and terrorism. In Milwaukee, many individuals and organiza-

tions, including the NAACP, the Nation of Islam and the Wisconsin Bail Out The People Movement, stand in solidarity with the Simmons family and the African-American community, who are demanding justice for their son, brother and friend.

On June 1, an unspeakable tragedy occurred in the neighborhood of 19th and Arrow. A mother and son, Patricia Larry and Darius Simmons, were taking out the trash when John Spooner confronted [the] 13-year-old son, accused him of burglarizing [Spooner's] home and shot him in broad daylight.

When police arrived, Mr. Spooner brazenly confessed to the crime and was taken into custody. However, according to Ms. Larry, her encounter with the Milwaukee Police Department demonstrated a lack of compassion, sensitivity and basic humanity after she witnessed the murder of her 13-year-old boy. Police questioned her for nearly two

hours in a squad car while her son lay dead on the sidewalk; her home was searched for any possible connection to explain Spooner's actions. When no evidence connected anyone in her home to the burglary, officers ran a check on her older son and arrested him for having truancy tickets.

Why did Milwaukee police treat Patricia Larry as though she was not a victim of a horrible crime? Why was the family of John Spooner allowed to remove items from his home despite it being a crime scene? This was the murder of a child. Was it that members of the Milwaukee Police Department shared the view of John Spooner, who also saw Darius Simmons as possible suspect rather than an innocent victim?

We demand an immediate public apology to Patricia Larry and the family of Darius Simmons for the insensitive treatment by the Milwaukee Police Department.

An investigation should be conducted into what police and city officials knew of

Continued on page 11

Indigenous peoples say: 'No celebration for desecration'

By Terri Kay
Vallejo, Calif.

California

"No Celebration for Desecration" was the theme of a protest by Indigenous peoples and their supporters who gathered June 16 to oppose "the grand opening" by the Greater Vallejo Recreation District of a park which the GVRD calls Glen Cove. This newly desecrated site is actually Sogorea Te, a sacred burial ground, used for thousands of years by many coastal California Native nations.

Indigenous activists have fought the GVRD and the city of Vallejo for 12 years to prevent them from destroying and desecrating what is known as the Glen Cove Shellmound. Thirteen thousand human remains were stolen from this and oth-



WW PHOTO: TERRI KAY

er California shellmounds and are now stored in footlockers at the University of California-Berkeley.

Last year people from many coastal Indigenous nations conducted a 109-day vigil at the Sogorea Te site to protect it from any further desecration. An agreement was finally reached with the city of Vallejo and the GVRD in the form of a

memorandum of understanding, where the city agreed to a cultural easement.

"Out of all that GVRD wanted to do with the land, we only asked for three things: that they not build bathrooms, not include a 15-car parking lot, and not grade a hill that contains burials/cremations," wrote Corrina Gould, Chochenyo/Karkin Ohlone, in a statement describing what

the GVRD had done to the site. The GVRD reneged on the agreement and graded the hill, put in a large parking lot, cleared the land of all trees and vegetation and put in wide trails.

More than 100 people came to remind the GVRD and the city of Vallejo about their broken promises. All of those opposing the opening came dressed in black T-shirts, carrying signs saying, "No Celebration for Desecration." Participants of "the grand opening" were allowed to enter, but they had to pass through the gathering of protesters and their solemn reminders of what had been done to this sacred site. The Indigenous people held their own ceremony in respect for the site and those buried there.

For updates and more information, see protectglen Cove.org. □

Plans advance for protest at Republican Convention

By Dianne Mathiowetz
Tampa, Fla.

Activists from across Florida joined for a meeting here June 16 with representatives of progressive organizations from Atlanta, Chicago, Minneapolis and Asheville, N.C. to further plans for a protest on Aug. 27, the opening day of the Republican National Convention in Tampa, Fla.

In addition to a number of student groups from multiple Florida campuses, there were members of the Teamsters, the National Organization for Women, Graduate Assistants United and Food not Bombs. The student groups included various Students for a Democratic Society chapters, members of Students Working for Equal Rights, an immigrant

rights organization, plus those involved in environmental and women's issues. A national representative of Veterans for Peace was present at the planning meeting as well.

Organizers from the 2008 Republican Convention protests in St. Paul and the recent anti-NATO demonstration in Chicago described those mobilizations. A member of the Coalition to March on Wall Street South brought solidarity greetings from those organizing actions at the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, N.C., the first week of September. Many at the meeting voiced their intentions to oppose both parties of the 1% by coming to the DNC protest as well.

The meeting outlined specific outreach plans for diverse communities whose in-



terests are reflected in the demands of the march for good jobs, health care, affordable education, equality and peace.

After months of stonewalling while the city government approved ordinanc-

es designed to curtail dissent, Tampa's city officials have granted the Coalition to March on the RNC a permit that will take the demonstration "within sight and sound" of the convention site. The coalition scheduled its opening rally at Perry Harvey Sr. Park in downtown Tampa.

Coalition organizer Skye Schmelzer summarized the success of the planning meeting: "We have worked to build a broad unity to oppose the corporate, right-wing agenda exemplified by the Republican Party. Our demands reflect the needs of the 99%. We invite everyone to join us on Aug. 27 to bring this message of fightback to the streets of Tampa."

For more information, go to www.marchonthernc.com or email MarchontheRNC@gmail.com □

U.S. increases 'training' and intelligence gathering in Africa

By Abayomi Azikiwe
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

The United States under the Obama administration is intensifying efforts to penetrate the African continent through seminars, military training operations, recognizance missions, Special Forces deployment, naval patrols and proxy wars. The U.S. Africa Command (Africom) is largely leading these efforts, along with the Central Intelligence Agency and the U.S. State Department.

In the West African state of Sierra Leone, 1,000 members of the country's armed forces recently completed training exercises conducted by Africom for deployment to the East African theater of Somalia. There, the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM) serves as the ground forces for the White House policy of containment in the region. Most AMISOM forces are from the Ugandan People's Defense Forces, which have maintained close ties with the Pentagon for many years.

On May 20, U.S. Army Commander Maj. Gen. David R. Hogg and U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Sierra Leone Michael S. Owen addressed the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces before their soldiers were sent off to join AMISOM in Somalia. Troops from Burundi and Djibouti are also participating in AMISOM.

Hogg told Sierra Leone's troops, "You are now going to be part of a small band of brothers who are members of AMISOM peacekeeping mission in Somalia, a small but important number." He trumpeted AMISON's role and objectives in Somalia: "The strides and progress made in Somalia are huge. ... You will join the Kenyan forces in Southern Somalia to continue to push al-Shabaab and other miscreants from Somalia so it can be free of tyranny and terrorism and all the evil that comes with it." (U.S. Army Africa Public Affairs, June 15)

In the same article, United States Africa Army Sgt. 1st Class Grady Hyatt, a military mentor who works through the State Department's African Contingency Operations Training and Assistance program, said, "I'm extremely proud of what these soldiers have accomplished. They are a well organized and disciplined unit."

ACOTA in Sierra Leone is coordinated by the U.S. Embassy's military attaché office under Owen, who noted that the conviction of former Liberian President

Charles Taylor by a Special Court on Sierra Leone in the Netherlands represented "progress" for both Freetown and Monrovia.

Tip of the iceberg

These developments in Sierra Leone are only a small part of the larger policy of the Obama Doctrine, which is emphasizing "joint partnerships" between nations allied with the U.S. to purportedly enhance the national security of various African states to better fight "terrorism."

A May 21-25 seminar in Garmisch, Germany, attracted some 30 representatives from more than 20 African states to "share insights and learn from U.S. subject-matter experts during a Joint Warrant Officer and Senior Non-commissioned Officers Symposium." It covered "the [growing] role of women in the armed forces; ... U.S. foreign policy in Africa; ... NCO and leadership support to economic development and in the context of humanitarian efforts; health care; and the future of Africa through 2020." (Africom, June 1)

These operations on the African continent have far exceeded those carried out during the Bush years where military interventions were more limited. Since 2011, these include military training and recognizance efforts, Special Forces deployments, the massive bombing of Libya and overthrow of the Gadhafi government, and regional drone missions based in Somalia, Djibouti, Ethiopia and Seychelles.

CIA operatives have established a spy station in Mogadishu, Somalia, which, along with secret prisons, helicopter surveillance and commando raids, add up to a deadly force against the African people. Last Oct. 14, the White House announced that at least 100 Special Forces and trainers were deployed to the Central African Republic, Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan to supposedly track down and kill Lord's Resistance Army leader Joseph Kony.

The Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force-12 trained soldiers in Uganda, Burundi and Djibouti are the bulk of AMISOM forces in Somalia. Other SPMAGTF-12 units traveled to Liberia to train the military in "riot-control techniques" as part of a State Department project.

Journalist Nick Turse notes, "The U.S. is also conducting counterterrorism training and equipping militaries in Algeria, Burki-

na Faso, Chad, Mauritania, Niger, and Tunisia. In addition, Africom has 14 major joint-training exercises planned for 2012, including operations in Morocco, Cameroon, Gabon, Botswana, South Africa, Lesotho, Senegal, and what may become the Pakistan of Africa, Nigeria. Even this, however, doesn't encompass the full breadth of U.S. training and advising missions in Africa." (Indypendent.org, June 17)

Turse adds what's not on Africom's list: "[T]his spring the U.S. brought together 11 nations, including Cote d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Liberia, Mauritania, and Sierra Leone, to take part in a maritime training exercise code-named Saharan Express 2012."

The Washington Post on June 14 also exposed the expanding intelligence networks established by the U.S. throughout Africa. In the West African state of Burkina Faso, a key base for monitoring developments on the continent has been set up with the code name "Creek Sand."

Dozens of U.S. personnel have come to Burkina Faso to coordinate the program.

The article notes, "U.S. spy planes fly hundreds of miles north to Mali, Mauritania and the Sahara, where they search for fighters from al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, a regional network that kidnaps Westerners for ransom."

Referring to Nigeria, Africa's largest oil exporter to the U.S., the Post continues, "Commanders have said they are increasingly worried about the spread of Boko Haram, an Islamist group in Nigeria blamed for a rash of bombing there."

In February, a U.S. Air Force U-28A spy plane crashed in Djibouti in the Horn of Africa where the U.S. has an Africom

base at Camp Lemonnier. Reportedly, four aboard were killed.

Although the East African nation of Kenya recently denied participating in the surveillance projects, the Washington Post reported that an engineering battalion of Navy Seabees was assigned to complete a \$10 million runway upgrade at Manda Bay Naval Base, a military installation for Nairobi on the Indian Ocean.

Somalia: A test case for U.S. imperialism

The situation in Somalia is a major source of political capital for the White House, the CIA and the Pentagon. Corporate media reports have hailed in recent weeks purported strides being made by AMISOM, the Kenyan Defense Forces, Ethiopian military units and U.S. drones in removing bases of the Al-Shabaab resistance movement.

Nonetheless, after announcing that an Al-Shabaab base had been cleared out in Afgoye, 19 miles from Mogadishu, an attack in the same town resulted in the deaths of dozens of U.S.-backed forces. Sheikh Abdisias Abu Musab of Al-Shabaab said, "Our fighters managed to enter with a car bomb inside a government forces base in Afgoye." (Reuters, June 16)

Despite all the military assistance by the U.S. since 2006, resistance forces inside Somalia have remained largely intact. Economic and military strategic interests guide U.S. involvement in Africa. Therefore, the anti-war movement inside the Western states must take a firm position opposing these operations in defense of the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the African people. □



The Lavender & Red series of articles by Leslie Feinberg, author of *Stone Butch Blues*, is now available online.

workers.org/lavender-red.

The Lavendar & Red Series includes:

Rainbow Solidarity In Defense of CUBA

This groundbreaking book documents revolutionary Cuba's inspiring trajectory of progress towards liberation of sexualities, genders and sexes.

Book available at Amazon.com and bookstores around the country



EXPOSED:

Corporate media bias demonizes Syrian gov’t

By John Catalinotto

The corporate world media continue their propaganda war against the Syrian government in preparation for a more open intervention — “humanitarian,” of course — by U.S.-NATO imperialism. The pressure is on now to get Russia and China to abandon Syria to NATO aggression, following last year’s Libya script.

If that statement seems excessive, then take a close look at a few of the exceptional articles that have slipped into that same corporate media, exposing the bias of the rest. These few articles show that, as is so often the case, the Big Lie precedes the war.

BBC editor Jon Williams published in his blog what amounts to an apology for his news organization’s coverage of the Houla massacre, which took place at the

end of May in Syria and was blamed on the Syrian government. Unfortunately, Williams’ piece received much less distribution than the Big Lie blasted across the corporate media and mouthed by every imperialist politician.

“In the aftermath of the massacre at Houla last month, initial reports said some of the 49 children and 34 women killed had their throats cut,” wrote Williams. In Damascus, Western officials told me the subsequent investigation revealed none of those found dead had been killed in such a brutal manner. Moreover, while Syrian forces had shelled the area shortly before the massacre, the details of exactly who carried out the attacks, how and why were still unclear.

“In Houla, and now in Qubair, the finger has been pointed at the shabiha, pro-government militia. But tragic death toll

aside, the facts are few: it’s not clear who ordered the killings — or why.

“Those opposed to President Assad have an agenda,” Williams points out. “One senior Western official went as far as to describe their YouTube communications strategy as ‘brilliant.’ But he also likened it to so-called ‘psy-ops,’ brainwashing techniques used by the U.S. and other military to convince people of things that may not necessarily be true.”

The British daily newspaper Independent on June 13 gave an idea, obscured in most corporate media reports, of who really is behind the so-called “Free Syria Army.” “Syrian rebels are being armed by Saudi Arabia and Qatar, The Independent has learned, in a development that threatens to inflame a regional power struggle provoked by the 15-month-old uprising against the Assad regime.”

It continues: “[T]hree weeks ago, members of the loose assortment of rebel groups that comprises the FSA said they had received multiple shipments of arms including Kalashnikov assault rifles, BKC machine guns, rocket-propelled grenades and anti-tank weaponry from Gulf countries and that Turkey was assisting in the delivery of the weapons.”

With Saudi Arabia and Gulf countries like Qatar — unlikely supporters of “democracy” since they are all oppressive monarchies — buying guns for the Syrian opposition, this also impacts on the media coverage. Establishment journalist Rainer Hermann, from the conservative German daily newspaper Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, explained this in his analysis of the difficulties of getting accurate news coverage from Syria:

“[Because they are present] the Arab news channels Al Jazeera and Al Arabiya have become the leading media, owned by Qatar and Saudi Arabia, which are two states actively involved in the conflict. Not without reason do Germans understand the phrase, ‘In war, the first casualty is truth.’”

Even the New York Times had to expose a “spin” by U.S. Secretary of Defense Hillary Rodham Clinton in her attempt to pressure Russia by claiming the Russians were delivering new, powerful helicopters to the Syrian government: “‘She put a little spin on it to put the Russians in a difficult position,’ said one senior Defense Department official.” (June 13)

Clinton had told a conference in Washington on June 12, “We are concerned by the latest information we have that there are attack helicopters on the way from Russia to Syria, which will escalate the conflict quite dramatically.”

Many times in recent decades, when the corporate media mobilized to demonize a country, an aggressive war followed. □

ANTI-WAR ACTIVISTS MOBILIZE

‘Hands off Syria & Iran! No drones!’

By John Catalinotto

Anti-war activists in the United States are alarmed by the growing signs of an imminent hike in the level of intervention by the U.S. and other NATO countries in the Syrian crisis. In response, these activists have stepped up efforts to organize widespread protests against any new aggressive imperialist maneuver.

The anti-war movement, mobilized by the groups in the United National Anti-war Coalition for a broad conference call on June 19, is expected to call for a week of protest from June 24 to July 1.

So far the slogans uniting most participants include “Hands off Syria and Iran!” “End the drone wars!” and “We need jobs, education and health care, not endless

war!” according to a June 17 email from UNAC co-coordinators Joe Lombardo and Marilyn Levin.

The same email underlines U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton’s recent warning to Russia not to get in the way of U.S.-backed efforts to force out the government of Syrian President Bashar Hafez al-Assad and how “the corporate media is making every effort to overwhelm us with calls for another ‘humanitarian war.’”

The email reports that grassroots activists are hoping for more coordinated actions. “For example, the Twin Cities Antiwar Committee and Women Against Military Madness in Minneapolis have called an emergency demonstration for Tuesday, June 26. We have since heard of other actions in Detroit, Los Angeles and

New York City and received word from activists who feel it is urgent to raise our opposition.”

In a related anti-war initiative, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairperson Imran Khan will address a public gathering outside the United Nations to protest U.S. drone attacks in Pakistan on July 1. This major Pakistani political party will try to build world public opinion against the Pentagon and CIA’s use of drones in Pakistan, which have killed many Pakistani civilians. Other anti-war forces in New York, including the International Action Center, plan to join this demonstration.

For more information on these protests or to register protests in your area, go to nationalpeaceconference.org or iacenter.org. □

LIBYA

Sham elections postponed while tensions

By Abayomi Azikiwe
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

Tensions have escalated both inside Libya and throughout the region since the beginning of the U.S.-NATO war against the North African state more than a year ago. Fighting among various sectors within Libya erupted in May and June, while the much-discussed elections have been put off until July 7.

These elections have been subject to the political designs of the imperialist-backed National Transitional Council regime, which was installed as a result of the assault on Libya between February and October 2011. Since the seizure of Tripoli in late August 2011 and the bombings and assassinations in Sirte, Libya has been in turmoil, with decentralized and undisciplined militias vying for control.

Members and supporters of the Jama-hiriya, the system of governance instituted during the revolutionary period between 1969 and 2011, are banned from participating in the elections. A recent law prohibiting, through threats of prosecution, any “praising” of assassinated leader Moammar Gadhafi and the political system that prevailed for more than four decades has been purportedly repealed. However, Libyans know that thousands of people remain in prison and exiled as a direct result of their political beliefs.

Laws, militia checkpoints and the excesses of the putative newly constructed national army are designed to suppress popular opposition to the NTC regime. Discontent among the people — even among those who were swept into the war against the government — is at an all-time high.

Since last October, the NTC and other anti-Gadhafi forces have been blamed for the inefficiency in the public sector, the widespread corruption — which has resulted in billions of dollars being stolen from both private industry and the fragile government — and the general lawlessness prevailing throughout the country. Libya has descended from having the highest standard of living on the African continent to burgeoning poverty and social discord.

Seif al-Islam denied justice

The capture, torture and indefinite detention of Seif al-Islam, the son and heir apparent to Gadhafi, has drawn the attention of Libyan solidarity activists around the world. Captured in late 2011 by rebels, Seif is being held reportedly by the militia in the town of Zintan, which functions independently of the NTC leaders in Tripoli.

In early June four members of an International Criminal Court delegation visited Seif to interview him about the outstand-

ing warrants it issued early on in the war. The delegation was detained on June 7 and accused of smuggling sensitive documents to Seif. The Netherlands-based ICC has never really objected to Seif being put on trial by the NTC, but their intervention in Seif’s case has resulted in a diplomatic embarrassment for the imperialist camp.

Although neither the U.S. nor Libya signed the Rome Statute, which established the ICC, the imperialists utilized the indictments against Gadhafi and other Libyan leaders in their attempt to isolate that government and create a stronger rationale for its overthrow. The continued detention of the ICC delegation by the Zintan militia brought about the visit of Australian Foreign Minister Bob Carr on June 18 in an attempt to win the release of the two women and two men being held.

Carr met with NTC Prime Minister Abdurrahim El-Keib and offered to facilitate the dispute between the Western-backed regime and the ICC representatives. “I made strong representations for the immediate release of the Australian Melinda Taylor,” the diplomat said. “But I now have a deeper understanding of Libyan [NTC] perspectives and concerns with the way the ICC has responded.” [Reuters, June18]

The ICC, along with the U.N. Security Council and the titular head of NATO, have called on the “rebels” to release the

delegation. The militia accused the two women in the delegation, who were said to have been present during the militia’s discussions with Seif, of subsequently leaking documents to him.

The detentions of Seif al-Islam and the ICC delegation are reflective of the lack of a strong, united political or legal system within the country. Nonetheless, the diplomatic response to these provocations bears no resemblance to the attacks leveled against the Gadhafi government in 2011, when thousands were killed and millions displaced and driven into exile for their refusal to bow to the dictates of the U.S.-NATO alliance that devastated the oil-rich nation.

Security situation deteriorates

Over the last few weeks the violence has escalated in the city of Benghazi. On June 11, the British ambassador’s vehicle was attacked by rocket-propelled grenades. The U.S. Consulate was attacked on June 12, when a bomb was placed outside that building. This attack was claimed by an Islamic resistance group supposedly in retaliation for the drone assassinations of al-Qaeda members in Pakistan.

On the same day as the bombing, a militia group at odds with the NTC regime in Tripoli temporarily took control of the airport, saying that one of their commanders

Celebrating 35 years of the Workers World Supporter Program

Workers World interviewed Sue Davis about the vital role the Workers World Supporter Program plays in the life of the newspaper. Davis founded the WWSP in June 1977 and has coordinated it ever since.

WW: Why was the Workers World Supporter Program set up in 1977?

Sue Davis: That was 18 years after the paper was founded. Dorothy Ballan, Bob McCubbin and I felt there was a strong enough subscription base to ask subscribers to help contribute to the paper financially. Right from the start it attracted people who truly value the paper and were able to make voluntary contributions. Some of them are still members.

The WWSP has grown over the years, even attracting members from Europe and Mexico. Most people who sign up stick with the program. They’re extremely loyal. Sometimes they’re forced to leave if they lose jobs or retire, but often they find ways to come back and make monthly payments or installments. Or they make a large donation one year, and then I pro-rate that over several years until they’re able to make their next contribution.

Of course, the economic downturn since 2008 has affected the number of WWSP members. Fortunately, that hasn’t reduced the yearly income. The total for 2011 was the highest yet — more than \$16,000.

That means some members are giving more. In the Sustainer category — \$300 or more a year — some give a lump sum while others give a monthly contribution, anywhere from \$100 to \$25 a month. The majority, however, are in either the Supporter category of \$75 a year (\$6 a month) or the Sponsor category of \$100 (\$10 a month). We rely on people who

don’t have much money themselves and value a newspaper that fights for them.

One way to gauge the program’s growth is that five years ago, during the 30th anniversary, I estimated that members had contributed about \$12,000 a year for the last 15 years. So the program is growing and helping sustain the paper.

WW: How have Supporters helped the newspaper?

SD: By funding lots of really important things. Like sending writers to report firsthand on struggles around the world: Palestine, South Africa, Quebec, Russia, north and south Korea, Colombia, Haiti, the former Yugoslavia and Cuba, as well as countries in Europe, and South and Central America.

Supporters have helped the paper establish and maintain workers.org on the Web, so that people all over the globe can read our revolutionary analysis. And WWSP funding has allowed us to computerize weekly production of the paper, with frequent upgrades to keep pace with the latest technology. It’s also helped us maintain publication of Mundo

Obrero, the Spanish section addressed to the Latino/a population. The money also comes in handy when the rent is due and postage and printing bills have to be paid.

WW: How does the program work?

SD: In exchange for monthly or yearly contributions, I mail out a letter every month that focuses on some important current issue. This month marks 420 mailings over the last 35 years! This month’s mailing is about the struggle to defend the U.S. Postal Service and stop all the closings and layoffs. That’s one of the top current social and economic issues that, if the Postmaster General is allowed to proceed, will affect every person’s quality of life in this country. Putting extra emphasis on that, beyond articles in the paper, helps promote the struggle and encourages Supporters to get involved.

When I started the program, there were a lot of buttons and printed petitions that I could mail out, but that’s changed with the growth in technology over the years. Now much communication is online. But political prisoners always need support — and they appreciate support — so I often

mail out the latest info on those struggles.

For instance, in March I mailed Supporters a “Give Me Five” postcard addressed to President Obama asking him to issue an executive order to free the Cuban Five. In April, the mailing was a call to Occupy the Justice Department on April 24 to demand freedom for Mumia on his birthday.

WW: What more do readers need to know about the the program?

SD: The hard part of my job as coordinator is when devoted, longtime members die. That’s really sad for me personally because I often get to know Supporters and establish ongoing relationships with them. Handwriting thank-you notes when people join or renew their membership helps create a connection.

So members need to know they can continue to contribute to the paper by leaving bequests in their wills.

I’m so grateful for the opportunity to get to know so many wonderful people who are dedicated to WW’s politics and who really care about the newspaper and want to see it prosper. □

An appeal for your support

Capitalism has reached a dead end and is casting off workers all over the world.

But you already know that from reading Workers World — the only progressive weekly that explains capitalism’s evolution to this crisis point and why socialism offers the only solution.

You know from reading WW that we provide you with reliable news that’s shunned by the capitalist media. You know we’re upfront about analyzing events using Marxism and Leninism as our worldview. Like the on-the-spot reporting on the recent protests against NATO in Chicago. Or the article on the Houla massacre in Syria that disputed the imperialist version of this atrocity, relaying eyewitness accounts that thugs hired by the “opposition” were responsible. Or our continuing analysis of the struggle in China between those who want to introduce more capitalism versus those who want to revive Mao’s practice of engaging the masses to strengthen socialism.

If Workers World is essential to your political life — if you’ve come to rely on the paper — then please take the next step and support us financially.

For the past 35 years we’ve asked our readers to forge a special relationship with the paper by joining the Workers World Supporter Program. Now we are asking our readers to show us how much you appreciate the news and analysis that only Workers World brings you. Consider it an ongoing contribution to the fight against imperialist war and racism and for worldwide socialism. Know that you

will be fortifying the newspaper for the challenges that surely lie ahead.

There are several ways you can participate in the Workers World Supporter Program. Members who contribute \$75 a year receive a year’s subscription to the newspaper, a monthly letter with new publications, petitions and brochures and five free trial subscriptions to give to friends. For \$100 you also get a book published by World View Forum. And for

\$300 or more (as little as \$25 a month) you also get your choice of five books or People’s Video Network videos.

But don’t feel limited by these amounts. We welcome checks of all sizes. For some, giving \$5 or \$10 is a real sacrifice, which we value. Just give as generously and as often as you can. It all adds up. Your contribution will make a difference to Workers World newspaper and to the worldwide struggle for a socialist future.

escalate

had been detained by the Western-backed leadership. The NTC regained control of the airport within a few hours. Also on June 12, the offices of International Committee of the Red Cross in Misrata were bombed, resulting in one death and several injuries.

In the South of the country fighting continues as a result of attempts by the Zintan militia to take charge of the region that did not support the U.S.-NATO war. It was reported that 14 people were killed over a three-day period beginning June 11 when members of the El-Mashasia ethnic group resisted the forces from Zintan.

The current situation in Libya illustrates clearly that military and political intervention by the Western imperialists has only brought about mass killings, poverty and forced removals. Those who supported and cheered on the war against Libya are silent today in response to the horrors taking place inside the once prosperous and stable country.

These events point to the necessity of maintaining an anti-imperialist perspective in relationship to U.S. and NATO foreign policy. The imperialist states operate exclusively based upon their own material interests, which are aimed at securing maximum profit through the exploitation of African resources, labor and national assets. □



May Day in New York.

WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

Join Workers World Supporter Program

I enclose: ☐ \$75 (supporter)
☐ \$100 (sponsor) ☐ \$300 (sustainer)
\$_____ other.

I enclose every month:
☐ \$6 (supporter) ☐ \$10 (sponsor)
☐ \$25 (sustainer) _____ other.
☐ I can't join now, but I want to give a donation of \$_____ to help fortify Workers World.

☐ Contact me about putting WW in my will.

Fill out the enclosed Supporter Program membership form and send it with your check made out to Workers World, 55 West 17th Street, 5th Floor, New York, NY 10011.

Name _____

Address/Apt _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Egyptian army's power grab

Egypt's Supreme Council of the Armed Forces, with the connivance of the top judiciary and within days of the presidential election, staged a virtual coup. They dissolved the elected Parliament, established rules akin to martial law and validated the presidential candidacy of a former Hosni Mubarak prime minister whom many Egyptians consider illegitimate. The Egyptian military regime thus revealed itself to be the same corrupt gang of generals and spy chiefs who ruled Egypt under Mubarak. It has made a farce of the slogan of the Feb. 11, 2011, revolution: "The army and the people are one hand."

The SCAF has exposed itself as a body whose class interests are diametrically opposed and fundamentally antagonistic to those of the Egyptian workers, peasants and middle-class youth without jobs who had placed their faith in the army to shepherd a transition to a democratic Egypt.

This power grab upstaged the June 16-17 run-off presidential election and minimized its significance. The military are calling all the shots.

Most Egyptian media report that the Muslim Brotherhood candidate, Mohammad Morsi, has won by a few percentage points. The military's candidate, Gen. Ahmed Shafiq, disputed this victory. A final count won't arrive until June 21.

The SCAF first moved to seize the reins of power after the mass revolution that ousted Mubarak on Feb. 11, 2011, promising democracy. The best organized force in the opposition was the Muslim Brotherhood, with a national organization entrenched in delivering social benefits to a section of the masses.

Leftist secular forces — from communists and socialists to youthful bloggers, Facebook enthusiasts and followers of bourgeois democratic politicians like Mohamed el-Baradei — were prominent in Tahrir Square. Many died for the revolution, but their organizations had not a chance to develop.

Regarding the relationship between U.S. imperialism and the Egyptian military, we should never forget that this military was trained and armed by the Pentagon. Its top officers got their marching orders at the Pentagon in January 2011 when the people began to fill Tahrir Square. Washington may prefer a democratic veneer to the Egyptian state, but in the end they and the SCAF depend on each other.

Among other things, the SCAF has pledged not only to maintain the 1979 peace treaty with Israel but to deepen it, at the expense of the Palestinian people. The SCAF is thoroughly an agent of imperialism, and its role as the owner of a large chunk of Egyptian industry and commerce only reinforces this relationship.

Lenin on 'State and Revolution'

The SCAF has succeeded in providing a living case history that would fit perfectly in the pamphlet "State and Revolution" by Russian revolutionary Vladimir Lenin. In the book's third chapter, on the 1871 Paris Commune, Lenin discusses a quote from Karl Marx that "the working class must break up, smash the 'ready-made state machin-

ery,' and not confine itself merely to laying hold of it" if it really is going to be able to change society.

The Egyptian masses had made no demand to overturn class relations. The SCAF is showing that just to make a thoroughgoing democratic revolution in today's Egypt, the masses must dismantle the state that represents the old regime — the secret police, the judiciary and the army — what Egyptians call "the deep state." The military has used the courts, electoral commissions and of course guns and jails to deny Egyptians the most fundamental democratic and economic rights.

Further progress of the Egyptian revolution is linked to the same question raised by Lenin in his 1917 pamphlet about the role of the state.

The military in any society reflects its class structure and the antagonisms between the exploited and the exploiters. The Egyptian army is no longer the patriotic army of Gamal Abdul Nasser, which defended Egyptian and Arab sovereignty and was armed and trained by the Soviet Union.

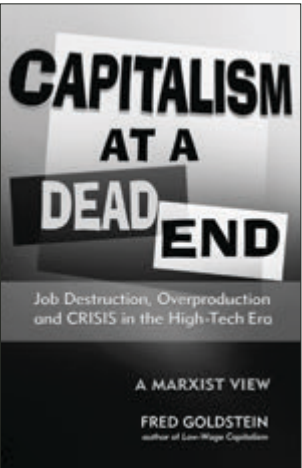
After 40 years of Mubarak and Anwar al-Sadat before him, the current crop of generals look after their own interests as capitalists. Along with that, they serve the military and business interests of their imperialist masters in the U.S.

But there are also other class forces in the military. Many low-ranking officers oppose the generals' corruption and profiteering. Tens of thousands of working-class draftees are often the sole supporters of extended families. They and even some of their junior officers may be wholly sympathetic to the demands of the people.

On April 8, 2011, a battalion of troops from Suez led by junior "free officers" showed that the army is no monolith. They came on stage before a million people in Tahrir Square "triggering a euphoria," said a report published in tlaxcala.org.

The SCAF realized that the possibility of a break in the chain of command could demonstrate to the masses that it was conceivable to break the back of the "bureaucratic-military machine" that Marx and Lenin discuss. Military police unleashed an attack that night, killing two of the officers and 19 civilians. The other "free officers" got heavy prison terms.

The struggle of the Egyptian workers has inspired the world. Their next step is the understanding that only by finding a way to smash the oppressive state can they move the revolution forward. Let all of us who struggle for social and economic justice take to heart this fundamental lesson of their struggle. □



Capitalism at a Dead End

Job destruction, Overproduction and CRISIS in the High-Tech Era

A Marxist View

To order send \$12 to World View Forum, 55 W. 17 St., 5th Fl., NY, NY 10011.

Low-Wage Capitalism and High Tech, Low Pay are available at Amazon & bookstores around the country

GREECE

Elections over, class struggle continues

By G. Dunkel

As the news spread that New Democracy, a pro-austerity party, finished first on June 17, "winning" the Greek elections, and will be able to form a government, a temporary sigh of relief went up from the boardrooms and bank offices scattered throughout the world's financial centers.

The imperialist ruling class had warned that the euro was at risk, but it survived the weekend. The banks' operations staffs could go home and rest up for the next crisis, which will be here soon enough.

Comparing the number of seats it won, 130, to the number of seats its main rival Syriza won, 71, it appears New Democracy won big. But this is because the leading party in Greek parliamentary elections gets a bonus of 50 seats.

If you look at the actual votes cast, New Democracy got 30 percent while Syriza got 26.7 percent, both gaining about 10 percentage points since the indecisive May 6 elections. As the election approached, the German imperialist government and the European Union pressured the Greek electorate to vote for ND.

Remember, this vote is in itself incapable of changing the system or of resolving the economic crisis. At most it determines who forms the parliamentary government in a society that remains capitalist. The banks remain in the hands of big capital. The state power is still the army and the police, which remain under the control of the Greek big bourgeoisie, while imperialist NATO backs up the banks and the Greek state.

Nevertheless, a large number of Greek voters were able to show that they rejected the austerity package that the Troika — the European Commission, the European Central Bank and the International Monetary Fund — has imposed on the backs of the Greek workers. Most of those opposed to austerity voted for Syriza, just as most accepting austerity voted for ND.

Knowing the winner would get the undemocratic 50 extra seats, many supporters of other anti-austerity parties undoubtedly switched their votes to Syriza, when compared to how they voted in the May 6 elections. Thus the Communist Party of Greece saw its vote total drop from 8.5 to 4.5 percent. Despite the vote loss, this party remains influential in the PAME union confederation, which held a dozen general strikes in the past two years. (Vote totals from Ministry of Interior press release)

PASOK — the party considered "center-left," though it supports austerity — got 12.46 percent and 33 seats, slightly less than in May. This time, unlike in May, PASOK and some other smaller parties will join the ND-led government and support an austerity deal with the Troika.

The other significant result was that the

fascist party, Golden Dawn, got 6.9 percent and 18 seats. It already translated this electoral boost into an attack on a Syriza meeting, where an organizer was beaten unconscious.

Economic crisis wracks Greece

This election barely gave the world markets a lift. Renegotiating the onerous terms of the current bailout package is not going to solve the economic crisis of Greek capitalism.

The Greek economy has contracted every quarter for the past five years. It is down by 15.9 percent, more so than Portugal, Italy and Ireland. (New York Times, June 16) Since the official guideline for the bailout from the Troika cuts Greece's budget deficit to 128 percent of its gross domestic product, as its GDP declines, Greece needs to cut spending even more. (Wall Street Journal, June 17)

The austerity the French and German banks imposed on the Greek workers, with the firm support of Greece's bourgeoisie, has been used as a club to beat down their living standards. Few of the so-called "bailout funds" have remained in Greece. Most funds were just recycled to pay for Greece's short-term debt to the French and German banks.

The high unemployment figures of 22 percent overall, with 50 percent for youth, still don't tell the whole story. Many who are working have suffered repeated wage cuts. Many small companies skip paychecks a month or two, claiming their customers haven't paid them. No worker, even those in government jobs, feels secure.

Some pensions have been cut in half and then cut again. One government ministry has forced workers within months of retirement to leave early, which severely cuts their pensions.

The Greek section of UNICEF released a report April 2 which claimed "a growing number of parents with young children are struggling to make ends meet." As many as 439,000 children across this country of nearly 11 million people live in households with incomes below the poverty level.

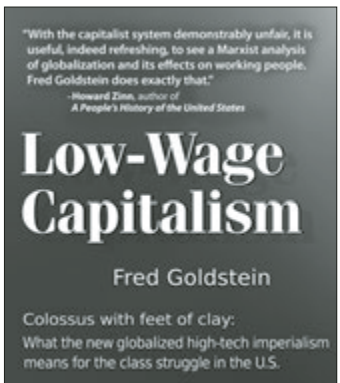
The Hellenic Statistics Authority (Elstat) reports that in more than 400,000 households, no one in the family is employed. (pappaspost.com)

Syriza leader Alexis Tsipras said at his party's rally on election night: "[T]he people have won the elections because now [the European Union] cannot proceed with bailout agreements, and they recognize this, both in Greece and in Brussels."

Communist Party Secretary General Aleka Papariga concluded in a June 18 statement: "We assure you that we ... will be in the front line in every struggle, we will support every militant initiative regarding the acute problems which are in progress, and we will prepare, to the extent that it depends on us, the people so that they can deal with the new torments which are on the way. We hope that this retreat of the radical orientation, which was particularly marked in the second electoral battle, will not last long."

Of note, Papariga criticized Syriza for a statement just before the election pledging not to leave the euro zone.

The workers of Greece have struggled valiantly against the austerity imposed on them by the international bankers. Now that the election is over, the political parties will prove themselves by defending the workers' interests through mass mobilization. □



NAT'L DAY OF ACTION IN SOLIDARITY WITH HONDURAS

The Colectivo Honduras USA Resistancia-libre and the Latin America & Caribbean Solidarity Committee of the International Action Center are supporting a call by the Honduras Solidarity Network for a national day of action on June 28. The date will mark three years of resistance to the 2009 coup in Honduras against President Manuel Zelaya.

In New York City, activists will gather on June 28 at 4 p.m. at Times Square, 41st Street and 7th Avenue, then march at 5 p.m. to the Honduran Mission to the United Nations at 1st Avenue and 48th Street. Demands include an end to human rights violations and impunity under the repressive Lobo Sosa regime and for U.S. imperialism to get out of Honduras.

Following are excerpts from the Honduras Solidarity Network's statement:

"After the June 28, 2009, coup in Honduras that overthrew democratically elected President Manuel Zelaya, a courageous movement united to struggle for democracy and justice in Honduras. This movement has continued after sham elections in 2010 to 'select' de facto President Pepe Lobo.

"We in the United States bear a special responsibility to take action given the shameful support of [the U.S.] government for the illegal coup and its involvement in the outrageous militarization, violence and impunity that not only continue but have escalated. While trade unions, students, campesinos and teachers continue to struggle for justice and the new resistance political party, LIBRE (Liberty and Refoundation Party), is organizing to run against the coup makers and oligarchy in the next elections, human rights violations and violence against the people are increasing.

- ▶ More than 50 campesinos have been murdered in the northern coast Aguan region alone since the 2010 elections.
- ▶ At least 12 teachers in the opposition have been killed or disappeared since the coup.
- ▶ More than 23 journalists and at least 42 GBLTI [gay, bi, lesbian, trans and intersex] activists have been murdered since the coup.
- ▶ Political murders of all resistance activists continue. On May 1 a member of the indigenous Lenca people's organization, COPINH, Santos Alberto Dominguez (24), was murdered by National Police troops in San Bartolo. On May 20 Jesus Pineda, a member of the FNRP [Frente Nacional de Resistencia Popular] and LIBRE Party, was assassinated in San Pedro Sula.
- ▶ Death threats continue against human rights defenders. From February through April Dina Meza, a member of the human rights organization COFADEH, received numerous threats of sexual violence, and the U.S. human rights

TEOFILO STEVENSON

Continued from page 2

petition. For workers and the oppressed, competition is the struggle for survival, where you are pitted against your friends, neighbors, even family members. Human beings under capitalism are different from human beings under socialism, in that the superstructure, of which culture is a part, flows from its base.

Teofilo will be remembered for his boxing prowess and for his principles as a member of a society that in 1959 set about the path of building socialism. Put in context, Teofilo's choice makes perfect sense. It is for that and many other things for which he will be remembered.

Teofilo Stevenson, Presente! □



accompaniment project (PROAH-HAP) received death threats via text messages.

- ▶ U.S. involvement is growing. On May 11 a U.S.-led anti-drug operation [directed by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency] in the Miskitia region opened fire on local villagers in a boat, killing four people (including two pregnant women) and wounding others. U.S. training, equipment and money are being provided to Honduran military and national police involved in human rights abuses." □

Continental protests to support Mexican workers' resistance

Cheryl LaBash interviewed Benjamin Prado from Unión del Barrio for Workers World newspaper. Unión del Barrio is a member of the Coordinating Group of ESNA (Encuentro Sindical Nuestra América), which held its fifth continental meeting in Mexico City from May 21 to 23.

JUNE 26

In 2009, the Mexican government used 27,000 armed federal agents to seize Luz y Fuerza, the power provider for Mexico City and central Mexico, forcing more than 40,000 members of the Mexican Electrical Workers union [Sindicato Mexicano de Electricistas] from their jobs. The attack on the militant independent union is part of a broader capitalist offensive against Mexican workers — including the miners in Cananea, airline workers and teachers — which has been intensified by the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Representatives of SME have explained their struggle throughout the U.S. and brought formal complaints under NAFTA regulations. The union has organized mass mobilizations and occupations of the Mexico City central square [the Zócalo]. Unity across borders is essential to turning back capitalism's globalized war on workers.

WW: What is planned for June 26?

Prado: On June 26, workers from throughout the continent will convene in front of the Mexican embassies and consulates to demonstrate solidarity with the Mexican working class and their unions to protest a terrorist policy of state repression against workers and their organizations. These demonstrations will also demand an end to existing labor disputes that involve the Mexican Electrical Workers, the Miners, the Democratic Teachers Union from the National Coordination of Educational Workers and the Mexicana de Aviación [airline] workers.

This call also calls for the release of 12 political prisoners, all members of the Mexican Electrical Workers, who have been in detention for fighting for their rights to keep their union jobs.

WW: Why is it important?

Prado: The June 26 call is an expression of solidarity among the class-conscious working class of Nuestra [Our] América, meant to stand in unity with concrete actions opposing the neoliberal policies that

20th Cuba Friendshipment Caravan gears up

IFCO/Pastors for Peace has announced that 101 cities in the United States and Canada are hosting the 20th Anniversary Friendshipment Caravan to Cuba, which will challenge the decades-long U.S. blockade aimed at the socialist country.

From July 1 to 14, school buses, trucks and cars will make their way along separate routes gathering much-needed material aid for the Cuban people. This includes construction supplies and tools, medical equipment, and educational and cultural materials. Caravan participants will join in as the vehicles head toward the Mexican border for the July 19-20 crossing.

Caravanistas will spend nine days in Cuba. The organization reports: "This year, through an exciting educational and cultural program, we will celebrate and honor the achievements of young people in Cuba, as well as learn about their daily lives and experiences as we visit organic gardens, neighborhood projects, health

centers and schools.

"We will also be commemorating and lifting up the life of the Rev. Lucius Walker Jr., the founding director of IFCO/Pastors for Peace, who for 20 years gave prophetic and visionary leadership to our Caravans to Cuba in defiance of the U.S. blockade, and who died peacefully in September 2010."

The Friendshipment Caravan explains that it travels "as a disciplined act of civil disobedience against the [U.S.] blockade and travel ban, and as ambassadors for a 'people-to-people' foreign policy based in mutual respect."

The Caravan will return to the U.S. from its "voyage of friendship and discovery" in a Reverse Challenge on July 31, when participants will openly declare their return from Cuba.

More information and local events will be posted at ifconews.org. Support the caravan when it comes to a city near you. □

the international financial oligarchy is attempting to impose on working peoples everywhere. This expression of solidarity with the Mexican working class is intended to send a message that an attack on one sector of the working class is an attack on all workers everywhere. This provides an opportunity for workers — beyond national boundaries — to stand united against this all-out assault on the right to work.

In addition, the significance of this action prior to the July 1 election is testimony to the need for fundamental political change in Mexico. It is a demonstration of support for Mexican workers who are demanding an end to the fascist PAN-PRI political parties that have imposed the free trade policies — as exemplified by NAFTA — which have condemned mil-

lions of workers to unemployment, underemployment or informal work with no social protections, to living a precarious economic and social existence.

WW: Where did it originate?

Prado: The proposal for a continental day of action was presented to the delegates of the Fifth ESNA, which was held in Mexico City from May 21 to 23. At this gathering, more than 400 Mexican delegates and 200 other delegates, representing more than 20 countries, came together to debate and discuss capitalism's impact on workers in the region. Their goal was to find unity in thought and action in response to the capitalist offensive that attempts to strip every last right from workers and promote the accumulation of wealth into the hands of a small number of transnational corporations and individuals. □

'Murder of Darius Simmons'

Continued from page 6

John Spooner's threats towards the family and any history of threats by Spooner involving a firearm in that neighborhood.

We want the offer of \$300,000 bail rescinded and [for] Spooner to remain in police custody. The charge of first-degree homicide warrants no bail, and there are no mitigating circumstances surrounding this crime except that it was committed by an elderly white man.

We want this case to be seen for what it is: a Hate Crime committed by a violent gun owner who hunted down a child to unleash his anger and [make the child] his victim. He approached Darius Simmons and shot him in the chest, five feet away, and attempted to shoot him two more times as he ran for his life and collapsed to his death. We demand additional Hate Crimes charges given the fact that Spooner targeted Darius Simmons. Presuming guilt for being young and Black, Spooner proceeded to execute an unarmed boy.

It is clear that the Milwaukee Police Department and Alderman [Bob] Donovan, who is NOT the alder of that district, displayed a great deal of sympathy for Spooner, even after he confessed to first-degree homicide in the case of Darius

Simmons. Ms. Larry, on the other hand, was questioned as if she was a suspect while her son lay dead and was ultimately taken away while police interrogated the family.

This is an outrage that must be addressed publicly. We call on the community, Northside and Southside, to continue to rally around the family and to renew coalition building between Black and Latino communities, both of whom are the victims of police misconduct and white vigilantism.

We call on Mayor [Tom] Barrett, Chief [Ed] Flynn and Common Council President [Willie] Hines to condemn this racist attack and conduct an investigation into how the Milwaukee police handled this grieving mother.

We believe that if this is not done swiftly and justice is mishandled by the city of Milwaukee, then it signals to others who share the racist paranoia of John Spooner that they too may take their prejudices and execute vigilante justice as they see fit, and soon there will be more tragedies like Darius Simmons.

Donations can be made to the Simmons family at Tri-City National Bank in the name of Darius Simmons.

Muhammad Mosque No. 3: mosque3.org/home.html.

¡Proletarios y oprimidos de todos los países unios!

Seguimos luchando para liberar a los Cinco Cubanos

Por Gene Clancy

El 6 de junio de este año, una moción para solicitar un argumento oral y proposición de pruebas fue presentada ante el Tribunal del distrito sur de la Florida a nombre de Gerardo Hernández Nordelo, uno de los Cinco Cubanos. La moción pretende descubrir y exponer el papel nefasto del Gobierno estadounidense al primeramente mantener el juicio en Miami y luego confundir al jurado pagando secretamente a periodistas para que difamaran a los acusados, una violación de la ley estadounidense.

Es un cuento clásico de traición y represión imperialista. Catorce años atrás, las autoridades estadounidenses detuvieron y encarcelaron a cinco hombres: Gerardo Hernández Nordelo, Ramón Labañino Salazar, Antonio Guerrero Rodríguez, René González Sehewert y Fernando González Llort. El 8 de junio fue el undécimo año de su convicción por cargos falsos. Los Cinco Cubanos son hijos, cónyuges, hermanos, poetas, pilotos, graduados universitarios y artistas, tres nacieron en Cuba, dos en Estados Unidos. Tres de ellos lucharon en Angola contra el apartheid en Sudáfrica. La lucha por la libertad de estos héroes aún continúa.

Desde 1959, Cuba ha estado sometida a amenazas, sanciones, invasiones, sabotajes, un bloqueo y ataques violentos en su suelo, resultando en 3.478 muertes y otras 2.099 personas heridas. Los cubanos han desarrollado una vigilancia contra los ataques externos.

En 1976 explotó una bomba a bordo de un avión comercial cubano, destruyendo el avión en el aire y matando a 73 personas. Detrás del ataque estaban dos hombres de origen cubano, Orlando Bosch y Luis Posada Carriles, ex operarios de la CIA que los Estados Unidos luego protegió.

El “crimen” de los Cinco, fue el de infiltrarse en las organizaciones de extrema



Gerardo Hernández Nordelo, Ramón Labañino Salazar, Antonio Guerrero Rodríguez and Fernando González Llort. René González Sehewert salió de la cárcel, aunque deberá permanecer en Estados Unidos bajo el régimen de libertad supervisada.

derecha que con el respaldo de la CIA, han llevado a cabo muchos de estos ataques y aún planeaban otros.

Cuando los Cinco descubrieron un atentado real e informaron al FBI, el FBI les detuvo. A pesar de la supuesta preocupación del FBI sobre el terrorismo, permitieron que los autores permanecieran libres, mientras que los Cinco pasaron 17 meses en aislamiento. El juicio tuvo lugar en Miami y duró siete meses, el juicio más largo jamás realizado en los Estados Unidos hasta ese momento.

Durante el juicio, el Gobierno de Estados Unidos — a través de su agencia de propaganda oficial, la Junta de Radiodifusión de Gobernadores — estaba pagando secretamente a prominentes periodistas de Miami para que saturaran los medios de comunicación de Miami con informes que eran altamente inflamatorios y perjudiciales para los Cinco Cubanos. La presencia de periodistas de Miami en la nómina del Gobierno de EE.UU., que pretendían informar como prensa “independiente”, está en el centro de la injusta condena de los Cinco. Los Cinco no sólo fueron víctimas de un enjuiciamiento políticamente motivado, sino también de una operación de propaganda financiada por el Gobierno.

La jueza Joan Lenard obedientemente negó un cambio de lugar para los presos.

En octubre de 2011 René González fue liberado tras cumplir 13 años en prisión pero obligado a continuar bajo libertad condi-

cionada en Miami, impidiendo su regreso a Cuba. González no ha visto a su esposa Olga Salanueva desde su cumpleaños el 13 de agosto de 2000, cuando el FBI la detuvo y la deportó como parte de un plan para presionar a René para que “cooperara”. (René González, documental “Esencias”, enero de 2012, Radiocubana.cu) A ella y a la esposa de Gerardo Hernández, Adriana Pérez, aún se les impide entrar a los Estados Unidos para visitar a sus cónyuges.

A pesar de más de una década de encarcelamiento, su caso no ha sido olvidado, y hay nuevos motivos para estar optimista.

Durante su 25ª Convención en 27-30 de mayo, la Unión de Empleados de Servicio tomó la decisión histórica de plantear la cuestión de los Cinco Cubanos por primera vez. El día antes de comenzar la convención, se trajo la cuestión del caso a los/as casi 200 delegados/as del Caucus Latino de la SEIU, que dio unánime apoyo informal a la campaña por la libertad de los Cinco y el derecho a visitas de familiares.

Y el 8 de junio, los/as delegados/as a la 35ª Convención del Sindicato de Trabajadores de Almacén y Estibadores (International Longshore and Warehouse Union) recibieron postales exigiendo que el presidente Barack Obama libere a los Cincos Cubanos y les deje volver a su patria. En su última convención en 2009, este sindicato militante aprobó resoluciones exigiendo visas a Estados Unidos para Pérez y Salanueva para visitar a sus espo-

sos encarcelados, el fin al bloqueo contra Cuba y la libertad para Los Cinco.

Mientras tanto, continúa el apoyo tradicional. Desde el 1ro hasta el día 31 de julio el grupo IFCO/Pastores por la Paz hará su 20ª caravana desafiando el bloqueo ilegal y entregando suministros necesarios a Cuba. También en julio, el 43ª contingente de la Brigada Venceremos hará su camino a Cuba no sólo para apoyar a la Revolución Cubana, sino también para protestar contra la política hostil de Washington hacia Cuba. Ambos viajes en desafío a los postulados estadounidenses, hacen del caso de los Cinco Cubanos central para su organización.

El 14 de junio de 2011, Carlos Hernández, el alcalde de Hialeah, una ciudad en el Condado de Miami-Dade en la Florida, “honró” al terrorista Luis Posada Carriles financiado por la CIA y el FBI — dándole la llave de la ciudad. Existe amplia evidencia vinculando a Luis Posada Carriles con el atentado del avión cubano en 1976 y en la participación en otro atentado también con explosivos contra el Hotel Copacabana en la Habana que mató el turista italiano Fabio Di Celmo en 1997.

Sin embargo, hay motivos de esperanza para los/as partidarios/as de Cuba y las personas interesadas en la justicia alrededor del mundo. En 2011, por vigésima vez, la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas votó en contra del bloqueo de EE.UU. contra Cuba. □

Conferencia en agosto en Tijuana, México para defender la educación como un derecho

Por Cheryl LaBash

La crisis mundial en la educación y el ataque a los/as trabajadores/as públicos/as es el tema de una conferencia especial de Estados Unidos/Cuba/México/Latinoamérica/América de Norte del 17 al 19 de agosto en Tijuana, México, que está al lado de San Diego, California.

No es solo otra conferencia para hablar sobre lo mal que están las cosas para los/as trabajadores/as maltratados/as por la crisis del capitalismo global.

Los/as participantes incluyen a líderes obreros/as que lucharon por y ganaron la educación gratis y de calidad para todos/as. Estos/as líderes están diseminando ese derecho por toda Latinoamérica y el Caribe. Ellos/as se reunirán con jóvenes trabajadores/as y estudiantes que están luchando contra las ejecuciones hipotecarias, aumentos de matrícula y deuda estudiantil, racismo, brutalidad policial, la trayectoria escuela-a-prisión y por los derechos de inmigrantes/migrantes, y el

derecho a un futuro con trabajo real.

Ya se ha registrado gente de Cuba, México, Venezuela, Brasil, Ecuador y Puerto Rico, profesores/as y estudiantes del sur de California, trabajadores/as municipales y del cuidado de salud, veteranos/as del movimiento de ocupar y luchadores/as por los derechos de inmigrantes/migrantes. Los/as participantes podrán aprender sobre la Escuela Latinoamericana de Medicina de Cuba que gradúa médicos/as jóvenes, libres de deuda, de comunidades de pocos recursos y oprimidas del mundo, incluyendo de los EE.UU.

Un fuerte esfuerzo para liberar a los Cinco Cubanos está en la agenda. Los Cinco Cubanos han estado encarcelados por los EE.UU. por 14 años. Esta injusticia es el enfoque de un movimiento internacional para su regreso a Cuba.

En una clase de tres días que tendrá lugar antes de la conferencia, instructores de la escuela de sindicalismo de Cuba, la Lázaro Peña, discutirán el papel del sindi-

cato y sus líderes en la lucha de clases. Los temas incluyen: qué es la consciencia de clase y por qué es importante, la participación de los/as trabajadores en su sindicato, y la unidad de la clase trabajadora. Los instructores estarán dando la clase, impartida en español, por segunda vez.

Esta novena conferencia anual es un proyecto del Intercambio Laboral EE.UU./Cuba, Unión del Barrio, Comité Internacional por la Libertad de los Cinco Cubanos, el Centro de Acción Internacional y la Federación Sindical Mundial-Región de las Américas.

En años pasados los programas de acción después de la conferencia han incluido giras nacionales por ciudades estadounidenses de dirigentes sindicales latinoamericanos/as de Nicaragua, Colombia, México y un/a representante de la FSM-A. En 2008, los/as participantes apoyaron la huelga de los/as trabajadores/as de madera contrachapada de Carolina de Norte. Sus acciones resultaron en la cancelación de pedidos de ma-

teriales por un comprador importante. También hubo actividades de apoyo en los EE.UU. para los/as trabajadores/as electricistas mexicanos/as.

Cuando los/as trabajadores/as de la fábrica Republic Windows and Doors forzaron al Bank of America a negociar en Chicago al ocupar la fábrica donde trabajaban, delegados/as de la conferencia en Tijuana fueron a defender la ocupación y organizaron protestas en apoyo a los/as trabajadores/as de la United Electrical en sus ciudades de origen.

Los/as participantes de la Conferencia Sindical también asisten a reuniones del Encuentro Sindical de Nuestra América donde se trabaja hacia una comprensión y acción unitarias de los movimientos de trabajadores/as en Latinoamérica.

Regístrese ahora en LaborExchange.blogspot.com. Juntos/as, los/as trabajadores/as y oprimidos/as en el hemisferio occidental podemos forjar una estrategia ganadora a través de la solidaridad. □